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HYUNDAI

HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LIMITED

(Please scan this QR code to view the RHP)

Our Company was incorporated on May 6, 1996 as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 1956, with the name "Hyundai Motor India Limited", pursuant to a certificate of incorporation granted by the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu (**"ROC"**) and subsequently, a certificate of commencement of business dated May 10, 1996 was issued to our Company by the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu. For details of changes in the registered office of our Company, see ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters – Changes in the Registered Office"*** on page 221 of the red herring prospectus dated October 8, 2024 (**"RHP or Red Herring Prospectus"**) filed with the ROC.

Registered Office: Plot No. H-1, SIPCOT Industrial Park, Irrungattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk, Kancheepuram District – 602 105, Tamil Nadu, India; **Corporate Office:** Plot No. C-11 & C-11 A, City Centre, Urban Estate - 2, Sector 29, Gurugram – 122 001, Haryana, India
Contact Person: Divya Venkat, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Tel: +91 44 6710 5135; **E-mail:** complianceofficer@hmil.net; **Website:** www.hyundai.com/in/en; **Corporate Identity Number:** U29309TN1996PLC035377

OUR PROMOTER: HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO 142,194,700 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LIMITED ("OUR COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [•] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹[•] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE ("THE OFFER") OF UP TO 142,194,700 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION BY HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY ("PROMOTER SELLING SHAREHOLDER") (THE "OFFER FOR SALE" AND SUCH EQUITY SHARES, THE "OFFERED SHARES").

THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO 778,400 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [•] MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO 0.10% OF THE POST-OFFER PAIDUP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL, FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND THE NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 17.50% AND 17.40% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

DETAILS OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER, OFFER FOR SALE AND WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE

NAME OF THE SELLING SHAREHOLDER	TYPE	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFERED SHARES	AGGREGATE PROCEEDS FROM OFFERED SHARES	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (₹)[1]
Hyundai Motor Company (**"HMC"**)	Promoter Selling Shareholder	Up to 142,194,700 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each	Up to ₹ [•] million	10.00

[1] As certified by Manian & Rao, Chartered Accountants, by way of their certificate dated October 8, 2024.

**We primarily manufacture and sell four-wheeler passenger vehicles and parts, such as transmissions and engines in India and outside India.
Currently our vehicle portfolio includes 13 passenger vehicle models across sedans, hatchbacks, SUVs and battery EVs.**

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

**QIB Portion: Not more than 50 % of the Net Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer
Employee Reservation Portion: Up to 778,400 Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹ [•] million.**

PRICE BAND: ₹1,865 TO ₹1,960 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 186.50 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 196.00 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

THE PRICE TO EARNINGS RATIO ("P/E") BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 2024 FOR THE COMPANY AT THE UPPER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS AS HIGH AS 26.28 TIMES AND AT THE LOWER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS 25.01 TIMES AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE INDUSTRY PEER GROUP P/E RATIO OF 23.57 TIMES.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 7 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 7 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

A DISCOUNT OF ₹186 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION.

ASBA[#] | **Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!** | **[#]Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to Issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA. Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.**

In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated October 8, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the *"Basis for Offer Price"* section of the RHP vis-à-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition of primary and secondary transactions , as applicable, disclosed in the *"Basis for Offer Price"* section on page 118 of the RHP.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION AND PURCHASE IN THE OFFER, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST RELY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER.

In relation to price band, potential Investors should only refer to the price band advertisement for the Offer and should not rely on any media articles/reports in relation to the valuation of the Company as these are not endorsed, published or confirmed either by the Company or by the BRLMs.

RISK TO INVESTORS

(For details refer to section titled "Risk Factors" on page 34 of the RHP.)

1. Dependency on HMC: We depend on HMC, our Promoter, for our operations, including for parts and materials (such as engines and transmission assembly) and research and development. We have entered into and may continue to enter into related party transactions with HMC and companies within the Hyundai Motor Group that may involve conflicts of interest, which could adversely impact our business. Any adverse change in our relationship with HMC and the companies in the Hyundai Motor Group could have an adverse impact on our business, reputation, financial condition, and results of operations.
2. Risk regarding conflict of interest: Two of our Group Companies, Kia Corporation and Kia India Private Limited, are in a similar line of business as us which may involve conflict of interests, which could adversely impact our business. Further, our Promoter, Hyundai Motor Company ("HMC"), including certain companies in the Hyundai Motor Group, are engaged in businesses which may be similar to ours. While exercising their rights as our shareholder, HMC may consider the interest of all their subsidiaries and affiliates, which may not align with our interests.
3. Dependency on Mobis India Limited ("Mobis"): We depend primarily on our Group Company, (being a subsidiary of Hyundai Mobis Co., Ltd. which is specialised in after-sale parts business for HMC Group Companies), to supply spare parts for after sale services to us and our dealers. Further, we also depend on Mobis to supply modular parts to us that we use in the manufacturing process of passenger vehicles and parts and constituted 17.91% of our total parts and materials supplied in the three months ended June 30, 2024. Any failure by Mobis to supply these parts could adversely impact our business. Further, Mobis may engage in transactions with us and other HMC Group Companies that may give rise to conflict situations.
4. Royalty Agreement with HMC: We have entered into the Royalty Agreement with HMC pursuant to which we are required to pay an amount to HMC equal to 3.5% of our sales revenue (which is to be determined as set forth the Royalty Agreement), arising from the sale of passenger vehicles or parts. Termination of the Royalty Agreement could adversely impact our business and results of operations. The following table provides the royalty expenses paid to HMC, pursuant to the Royalty Agreement and erstwhile royalty arrangements, for the periods indicated:

	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2022
Royalty expense (₹ millions)	4,769.70	3,802.71	15,584.42	14,386.98	11,008.13
Royalty expense as a percentage of revenue from operations (%)	2.75	2.29	2.23	2.39	2.32

Any increase in the royalty fee payable by our Company to HMC under the Royalty Agreement, including up to and exceeding the limits of 5% of the annual consolidated turnover of our Company as prescribed under the SEBI Listing Regulations, could adversely impact our profitability metrics, including our earnings per share.

5. Special Dividend to HMC: Our ability to utilise our internal accruals and cash and bank balances to invest in the business has been reduced and have been adversely impacted on account of the special dividend aggregating to ₹ 107,824.20 million paid to HMC, our Promoter, in March 2024. As a result, we may need to borrow and incur borrowing costs which could impact our profitability, key financial ratios and results of operations.
6. Risk regarding parts and materials consumed: We source parts such as trims, engines and transmissions, and materials such as steel for our manufacturing operations from a combination of domestic and foreign suppliers of the total purchase of parts and materials in Fiscal 2024, we sourced 78.04% from India and 21.96% from outside India.
7. Dependency on Suppliers: We depend on a limited number of suppliers for the procurement of parts and materials required for our manufacturing operations. The table below highlights the percentage of supplies sourced from our top-five suppliers, top-10 suppliers, related parties and suppliers in India and Korea for the periods indicated:

Particulars	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2022
Top-five suppliers as a % of total costs to purchase of parts and materials[1]	42.61%	46.58%	43.73%	44.01%	41.05%
Top-10 suppliers as a % of total costs to purchase of parts and materials[2]	57.98%	61.08%	58.37%	58.81%	55.05%
% of parts and materials sourced from related parties	37.14%	39.51%	38.28%	33.98%	34.60%
% of parts and materials sourced from India	80.97%	74.35%	78.04%	80.11%	82.45%
% of parts and materials sourced from South Korea	14.20%	21.18%	16.60%	16.81%	14.06%
% of parts and materials sourced from other than India and South Korea	4.83%	4.47%	5.36%	3.08%	3.49%

(1) Three of our top-five suppliers during the three months ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and Fiscals 2024 and 2023 and two of our top-five suppliers during Fiscal 2022 are from related parties.
(2) Five of our top-10 suppliers during the three months ended June 30, 2024 and Fiscal 2024 and four of our top-10 suppliers during the three months ended June 30, 2023 and Fiscals 2023 and 2022 are from related parties.

8. Dependency on sale of non-EV passenger vehicles: A significant portion of our sales volumes are derived from the sale of non-EV passenger vehicles, and there is no assurance that we will be able to adopt our EV strategy successfully and cost-efficiently or at all. The following table provides a breakdown of our sales volumes by powertrain for the periods indicated:

Particulars	Three months ended June 30,				Fiscal					
	2024		2023		2024		2023		2022	
	Units	% of total domestic passenger vehicle sales volumes	Units	% of total domestic passenger vehicle sales volumes	Units	% of total domestic passenger vehicle sales volumes	Units	% of total domestic passenger vehicle sales volumes	Units	% of total domestic passenger vehicle sales volumes
Domestic sales volume by powertrain	149,455	100.00%	148,303	100.00%	614,721	100.00%	567,546	100.00%	481,500	100.00%
ICE (without CNG)	132,338	88.55%	132,634	89.43%	542,234	88.21%	506,249	89.20%	437,637	90.89%
CNG	17,000	11.37%	15,061	10.16%	70,367	11.45%	60,322	10.63%	43,732	9.08%
EV	117	0.08%	608	0.41%	2,120	0.34%	975	0.17%	131	0.03%

9. Risk regarding evolving customer demands: Our success depends on our and HMC's ability to identify market trends, including technological trends, and meet evolving customer demands, while maintaining or improving our profitability. If we are unable to do so, our sales volumes, business and results of operations would be adversely affected.
10. Dependency on HMC for Exports: Our global operations involve challenges and risks that could increase our costs, adversely affect our results of operations and require increased time and attention from our management. Further, we primarily depend on HMC for our exports business and revenue generated from our exports sales constitutes 22.34% and 23.70% of our revenue from operations in Fiscal 2024 and in the three months ended June 30, 2024, and also need their prior permission for exports, including regarding the model and jurisdiction of our exports. Any failure or delay by HMC or us in accessing the export markets could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and prospects.
11. Risk regarding manufacturing capacity: We currently manufacture our passenger vehicles and parts only at the Chennai Manufacturing Plants. Our manufacturing plants currently operate

Continued on next page...

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RELIEF FOR WAYANAD

Kerala resolution seeks release of aid

SOUTH » PAGE 9

CALL FOR DIALOGUE

Centre invites Manipur MLAs for peace talks

NEWS » PAGE 12

ECONOMICS NOBEL

Trio wins for work on wealth inequality

WORLD » PAGE 16

DISTURBING RESPONSE

Israel's brutality in Gaza, India's pin-drop silence

It reflects 'new India's' anti-colonial amnesia

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

DAY TO CHERISH

NZ beats Pakistan, knocks out India

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Case withdrawal: BJP approaches Governor

BENGALURU
While the BJP on Monday approached the Governor to intervene in the government's decision to withdraw cases against those involved in the attack on the police station in Hubballi, Home Minister G. Parameshwara defended the move. » PAGE 6

Couple harassed by biker

BENGALURU
In yet another road rage incident, a couple returning home was confronted by a two-wheeler rider who allegedly tried to attack them on Kadubeesanahalli-Panathur Road near Vibgyor school on Sunday night. » PAGE 4

India, Canada 'expel' diplomats as Nijjar case row intensifies

India says it has expelled 6 Canadian diplomats and will pull back its High Commissioner; Canada claims it has expelled 6 Indian officials

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

In a dramatic turn of events, India on Monday decided to withdraw its High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma and other senior diplomats stationed in Canada. Soon thereafter, India expelled six Canadian diplomats, including the chargé d'affaires Stewart Ross Wheeler.

Meanwhile, news agency AP reported that Canada had expelled six Indian diplomats, including the High Commissioner.

The developments came hours after the Canadian government declared the six Indian officials as "persons of interest" for their alleged role in the killing of pro-Khalistan figure Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in 2023.

In an unusually sharp response, the Ministry of External Affairs described the Canadian allegations as "preposterous imputations", arguing that the matter was linked with the political challenges that the Trudeau government was facing on the domestic front in Canada.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

PANNUN PLOT PROBE
» PAGE 12

Frayed ties

India's relations with Canada have been strained since Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing last year. Here are some key developments:

HARDEEP SINGH NIJJAR

Jun. 18, 2023: Nijjar, a Sikh preacher in British Columbia, is killed

Sept. 18: After his visit to Delhi, Trudeau reveals that Canada's national security organisation discovered "agents of the Indian government" were involved in the killing

Sept. 21: India suspends visa services for Canadian citizens

Nov. 22: India resumes e-visa services

May 2024: Canada arrests four Indian nationals suspecting them of being involved in Nijjar's killing

Sept. inflation at 9-month high as food price surges

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation shot back to a nine-month high of 5.5% in September, breaking a two-month streak under the central bank's median target of 4%, thanks to a resurgence in food price rise to 9.24% after hovering below the 6% mark through July and August.

Vegetable inflation surged from 10.7% in August to a 14-month high of 36% in September, while fruit price rise gained momentum to hit 7.65% from 6.5% a month earlier.

For rural consumers, inflation neared the 6% mark – the upper tolerance limit for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – to hit 5.9%, while their urban counterparts faced a price rise of 5.05% last month.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Renukaswamy murder: Court rejects Darshan's bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 57th City Civil and Sessions Court on Monday rejected the bail petitions of prime accused Pavithra Gowda and Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa in the Renukaswamy murder case. However, the court granted conditional bail to two more accused, Ravishankar and Deepak, taking the number of accused persons granted bail to five. The duo had allegedly brought Renukaswamy from Chitradurga to Bengaluru.

The defence, while presenting the case, claimed that there was no direct involvement of Darshan in the case, nor was he present at the time of the murder. However, the prosecution, while opposing the bail, argued that there was strong evidence in terms of technical and eyewitness accounts against Darshan.

"The police found blood stains in the footwear he was wearing at the time of the crime and seized by the police, which matched with the deceased," the prosecution argued.

Darshan FILE PHOTO

While rejecting the bail, the court observed that delay in investigations and gathering evidence was no ground for discarding the statement of the witnesses. The court also observed that the DNA reports established the presence of Darshan at the scene of crime. The deceased was brutally murdered as per the post-mortem report and Darshan, being an influential person, would hamper the case if granted bail, it added.

While the family of the deceased welcomed the decision and demanded a speedy trial, advocates representing Darshan have decided to move the High Court, citing health grounds.

Earlier, in September, the court had granted bail to V. Karthik, Keshavamurthy, and Nikhil Nayak. The trio was charged with destroying evidence and providing false information by surrendering before the police on June 10, claiming that they had murdered Renukaswamy over a financial dispute.

Renukaswamy, employed at a medical shop in Chitradurga, was reportedly kidnapped and murdered at a shed at Pattanagere in R.R. Nagar of Bengaluru on June 8. The crime came to light the next day, when a security guard of an apartment complex spotted the body. The accused had allegedly kept him in a shed at Pattanagere, tortured him and murdered him before disposing of his body in a storm-water drain.

Divine departure

End of festivities: A Durga idol that was immersed into the Kuakhai river in Bhubaneswar, marking the culmination of the puja celebrations. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Special court grants bail to ex-Minister Nagendra in Valmiki corporation case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court here on Monday granted bail to former Minister and Congress MLA B. Nagendra in the case of "multi-crore scam" involving funds of Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

As per the gist of operative portion of the order released by the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs, Mr. Nagendra had been directed to execute a personal bond for ₹2 lakh with two sureties for the like sum to the satisfaction of the court.

Meanwhile, the court has directed him not threaten and tamper with the prosecution witnesses or the complainant and victim; not evade the investigation and to appear before the investigation officer whenever called.

B. Nagendra

He has also been directed to furnish his passport to the Court and not leave Karnataka without obtaining written permission from the court; not in any manner interfere with the investigation or tamper the evidence directly or indirectly; and not to indulge in similar offence.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had taken up the investigation against him after the State police registered a first information report (FIR) in respect of misappropriation of funds of the Valmiki corporation.

Mr. Nagendra, who was then serving as Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare in the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government, was arrested by the ED on July 12 and he has been named as prime accused along with 14 others. The ED, in its chargesheet, had named him as the "mastermind" of the scam.

The chargesheet filed by the State police on Valmiki Corporation scam does not include Mr. Nagendra in the list of accused named so far in their investigation report.

The ED had stated that under the influence of Mr. Nagendra, the account of the corporation was moved to the M.G. Road branch without any proper authorisation, where ₹187 crore, including ₹43.33 crore from the State treasury under the Ganga Kalyana Scheme, was deposited without following proper procedures and in violation of government guidelines.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Couple, two children found dead in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A preliminary inquiry revealed that the couple had differences

A couple and two minor children were found dead at their house in Rajanukunte on the outskirts of the city on Monday.

The deceased are Avinash, 33, Mamatha, 30, Adhir, 5, and daughter Anaya, 3. Avinash was a taxi driver in the city and they were living in a rented house for the last five years.

Avinash's brother, Uday, lived with them and worked as a private school teacher. He had gone to their native place and returned on Monday only to find them dead.

Avinash had showed up to work on Sunday, hours before he took the extreme step. A preliminary inquiry revealed that the couple had differences. On Monday, Mamatha reportedly killed her two children before ending her own life. Avinash, who had gone to work, returned to find the trio dead and ended his life too. "However, the post-mortem will confirm the details," a police officer said. The police have taken up two cases of unnatural death and suspicious death for further investigations.

(Those in distress or experiencing suicidal thoughts can call the arogya Sahayavani on Ph: 104 for help)

Soon, harness wind energy by installing turbines on roofs

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Electricity consumers in Karnataka have yet another chance to generate renewable energy and save on their power bills by installing Rooftop Aero Turbine (RAT) in their buildings. The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) recently issued draft regulations for the installation of RATs in residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings.

RAT refers to a small-scale wind energy plant that can be installed on roofs of consumers' premises to generate electricity by harnessing wind power. These plants should mandatorily be mounted on rooftops installed with or without solar panels, according to the draft titled Draft KERC (Implementation of rooftop aero turbine with solar or without solar) Regulations, 2024.

Rooftop Aero Turbine plants should mandatorily be mounted on rooftops installed with or without solar panels. FILE PHOTO

"These turbines are designed to operate in urban or suburban environments where wind speed is typically lower and more turbulent than in open areas. Rooftop aero turbines can be an effective way to harness wind energy for residential power use, especially in combination with solar power or without solar power," the draft document says.

The commission plans to incentivise and encourage consumers to install RATs through higher promotional rates. "Like we harness solar power with rooftop panels, we can do it with wind too through RATs. Solar generation is only during the daytime, but wind energy can be harnessed even at night," P. Ravikumar, Chairman, KERC told *The Hindu*.

He added, "For customers, the rates for wind and solar will be higher than just solar. For solar, we were initially giving around ₹9 per unit, but now, we give ₹3 per unit. We will similarly give higher rates for RAT-generated power on a promotional basis. Once it is installed on a larger scale, we can think about reducing the rates. We will now keep the regulation ready and encourage people to put it up whenever they want."

According to the draft regulations, to install RAT with solar, the installed capacity of the solar plant should be at least 1 kilowatt (kW).

The total capacity of both resources should not exceed 1.25 times the sanctioned load.

For instance, if a consumer's sanctioned load is 10 kW, then the capacity of the solar plant can be a maximum of 10 kW whereas the capacity of RAT can be 2.5 kW (25% of the total sanctioned load). If a consumer chooses to install just the RAT, then the minimum installed capacity should be 1 kW and the maximum capacity should not exceed the sanctioned load.

The consumers are required to commission the RAT (with or without solar) within 180 days of entering into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the distribution licensee (escoms).

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

Wind energy plant

What is a Rooftop Aero Turbine?
It is a device that can be installed on roofs to harness wind energy on a small scale

Who can install it?
Electricity consumers in residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings

Are solar plants mandatory with RAT?
No. They can be installed with or without solar plants

What is the installed capacity of RAT?
1.25 times the sanctioned load with solar and less than 1 kilowatt and within the sanctioned load without solar

Now I mostly think about becoming the No. 1 player in the world

I was playing chess for 11 or 12 years in a row before deciding that I wanted to have a social life; I am focusing a lot on the game again; I managed to win the Grand Chess Tour, but could have done a bit better at the Candidates; Gukesh is a big favourite for the World title but Ding has the experience

GLOBAL CHESS LEAGUE

INTERVIEW

ALIREZA FIROUZJA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
LONDON

After winning his first game of the final match, against Anish Giri, in the Tech Mahindra Global Chess League at Friends House, Alireza Firouzja asked his coach: "When is the next game?"

The excitement of the Iran-born Frenchman was understandable. He had been scoring several wins on the Icon board for Triveni Continental Kings. He lost to Giri in the return match, but that didn't matter. His team won that match and the final against PBG Alaskan Knights.

Firouzja, rated by five-time World champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen as the best player of the young generation, is a former World No. 2. He remains the youngest to reach 2,800 Elo points; he had broken Carlsen's record in 2021. He is now ranked World No. 7 with 2767 Elo points. Excerpts:

You came in virtually as a last-minute replacement for Triveni Continental Kings and turned out to be the star performer on the Icon board...

I feel happy. I wanted to help my team.

You didn't play in the inaugural edition of the Global Chess League, so this is your first. Your thoughts on the event?

We don't have so many team events in the calendar. So I am happy I participated here. It was a kind of last moment thing, but at the end everything went well. And I liked Season one. I was watching from home. It was pretty cool. I remember some things from last season.

Such as...

The way Levon Aronian played (for Continental Kings, my team). And the final was very exciting.

This year the league got better, with Hikaru Nakamura and you coming in...

Yes, the tournament got bigger and tougher now. I like the fact that it has come to London. It's good for chess in England.

What are your thoughts on doing away completely with the increment in time control? Do you think it is a good innovation?

I think it fits this tournament. It is very exciting. You still have to make good moves. But I think spectators love it, though we players may sometimes suffer because of it. But I like it. But I think the entertainment factor is good for chess.

You have had a good year so far despite the disappointment at the Candidates tournament.

Yeah, I think it was a good year after some ups and downs. I managed to win the Grand Chess Tour. I could have done a bit better at the Candidates. But you should learn from it and move on. And I did my best. The Candidates tournament is very tricky. Anything can happen.

A couple of years ago, Magnus Carlsen had said that he would defend his title only if you became his challenger (after winning the Candidates). How did you feel when he said that?

I felt nice. People say it would add pressure to me, but I took it very positively. He respects my play. But I also respect his play a lot.

What are your earliest memories about chess?

One of my most cherished memories about chess is entering our local chess club in Bablo, Iran. It is where I was born.

So how did you end up in that chess club?

We had a chess board in our home. Me and my brother were playing all the time. One day, it was summer. We checked football, gymnastics. And then we went to chess. I liked chess a lot. And we proceeded from there. You preferred chess to gymnastics and football.

What do you recall from those days at the club?

I spent a lot of time there. I would wait for my school to finish, so that I could go to the club.

When did you really become serious about having a career in chess?

I think it was when I was around 10 or 11. My coaches in that chess club were very professional.

Any particular coach that you remember, that you are grateful to?

Yes, I had a coach, Mr. Abbasi. He is a very good coach. He is still coaching there. The coaches advised my parents that I should continue with chess.

Back in 2019, you scored 105 points to touch the 2,700 Elo mark.

I was working a lot, so I kind of expected it. I knew I would reach 2,700 one day.

Then in 2021, you crossed 2,800, beating Carlsen's record as the youngest player to reach the magical mark. Only 14 players have done it in history.

I am very happy to be one of them. It was a very special feeling because reaching 2,800 in your lifetime is a goal.

You took a year off from chess to study fashion designing in Paris...

I was playing chess for 11 or 12 years in a row. I wanted to have some social life. I liked it a lot. It helped me a lot, I think. But now I am focused a lot on chess again.

What made you turn towards fashion?

I always liked it. When I was 10 or 11, I was collecting sneakers. I was always following the fashion shows in Paris. I have many friends in the fashion industry.

So you may design some clothes in the future?

Yeah, probably, yeah.

How do you look forward to the world title match between Ding Liren and D. Gukesh?

I think Gukesh is a big favourite now. But Ding has experience, so you should not underestimate him.

So you would not write him off, unlike some players do?

I don't think you can write him off. Writing him off is not a professional thing.

So you feel it could be a match?

Yeah, it could be.

What about your own aspirations as far as the World title is concerned? How do you look forward to that, playing a World title match?

Now I mostly think about becoming No. 1 in the world. It is my biggest goal. For the world championship, you have to be a bit lucky sometimes.

Especially for the Candidates tournament...

Yes, and the Candidates tournament happens every two years. And only one player qualifies. And in those two weeks, you have to not get sick, you have to be in the best physical shape. So I think reaching number one, to be the best player in the world is the most important thing.

Which factors do you think might have helped Gukesh to win the Candidates this year?

I think India has a very good structure for chess. The Indian youngsters have a lot of support. Then Viswanathan Anand is there, he has an academy there. And he is providing coaches for them and things like that.

You are part of an exciting young generation of chess. How do you see the future for the game?

Yes there are some very good players from around the world. So I am expecting that it will be exciting, at least as exciting as the previous generation.

(The correspondent is in London at the invitation of Tech Mahindra)

...continued from previous page.

at high capacity utilisation levels. For Fiscal 2024 our capacity utilisation was 97.10% and we may not be able to meet additional demand for our products until we are able to increase our capacity by operationalising Talegaon manufacturing plant which is expected to commence commercial operations partly in the second half of Fiscal 2026. Further, if we underestimate or overestimate the demand for our products, the capacity utilisation of our manufacturing plants may be under-utilised or over-utilised, respectively, which could adversely affect our manufacturing schedules and related costs.

12. Dependency on SUV: We substantially depend on the sales of our SUV models in India. The below table sets forth the domestic sales volumes of SUVs and the percentage of our total domestic sales volumes for the periods indicated:

	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2022
Domestic Sales Volume of SUVs (units)	100,745	83,642	388,725	301,681	250,430
% of Total Domestic Sales Volume (%)	67.41%	56.40%	63.24%	53.16%	52.01%

13. Market Risk: The Offer Price of our Equity Shares and our price-to-earnings ratio may not be indicative of the trading price of our Equity Shares upon listing on the Stock Exchanges subsequent to the Offer and, as a result, you may lose a significant part or all of your investment.

Particulars	Ratio vis-à-vis Floor Price of ₹1,865	Ratio vis-à-vis Cap Price of ₹1,960
	(In multiples, unless otherwise specified)	
Market capitalization to Revenue from operations	2.17	2.28
Price-to-earnings ratio	25.01	26.28

Notes:
- *Market capitalization has been computed as the product of number of shares outstanding as on the date of RHP with the floor price or cap price, as applicable.*
- *Revenue from Operations are for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2024.*
- *P/E Ratio has been computed based on the floor price or cap price, as applicable, divided by the Diluted EPS for the financial year ended 2024.*

14. Other Risks:
- The weighted average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares for Promoter Selling Shareholder is ₹10 per Equity Share and the offer price at upper end of the price band is ₹1,960 per Equity Share.
- Our Company will not receive any proceeds from the Offer for Sale.
- The Price to Earnings ratio based on diluted EPS for financial year ended 2024 for the Company at the upper end of the Price band is as high as 26.28 times as compared to the average industry peer group PE ratio of 23.57 times.
- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Financial Year ended 2024, 2023 and 2022 is 39.11%.
- The five Book Running Lead Managers associated with the Offer have handled 35 public issues in the past three Financial Years, out of which 5 issues closed below the issue price on the listing date:

Name of the BRLMs	Total Public Issues	Issues closed below IPO price on listing date
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	13	2
Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited*	3	-
HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited*	-	-
J.P. Morgan India Private Limited*	1	-
Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited*	1	-
Common issues of above BRLMs	17	3
Total	35	5

**Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs.*

- Weighted average cost of acquisition of all shares transacted in the three years, 18 months and one year preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:

Period	Weighted average cost of acquisition (in ₹)	Cap Price is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition	Range of acquisition price: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)
Last one year	Nil*	Nil*	Nil*
Last 18 months	Nil*	Nil*	Nil*
Last three years	Nil*	Nil*	Nil*

**Share transfers have taken place among the shareholders holding equity shares on behalf of and as nominees of our Promoter.*

BID/OFFER PERIOD | BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY | BID/OFFER CLOSES ON: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024*

*UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date)	
Submission and Revision in Bids	Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. IST
Bid/Offer Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) for RIBs, Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic application (bank ASBA through online channels like internet banking, mobile banking and syndicate ASBA applications through UPI as a payment mechanism where Bid Amount is up to ₹0.50 million)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (syndicate nonretail, non-individual applications of QIBs and NIIs)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 3.00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (syndicate nonretail, non-individual applications where Bid Amount is more than ₹0.50 million)	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 1.00 p.m. IST

Revision/Cancelled of Bids	
Upward Revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories#	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST on Bid/ Offer Closing Date
Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIBs and Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion	Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST

Event	Indicative Date
Bid/Offer Closing Date	Thursday, October 17, 2024
Finalisation of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Friday, October 18, 2024
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors)/unblocking of funds from ASBA Account	On or about Monday, October 21, 2024
Credit of Equity Shares to depository accounts	On or about Monday, October 21, 2024
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Tuesday, October 22, 2024

**UPI mandate end time shall be 5:00 p.m. on the Bid/ Offer Closing Date.*

#QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF NSE AND BSE.

UPI UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

UPI-Now available in ASBA for all individual investors applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders and Non-Institutional Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021 read with press release September 17, 2021, and CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by retail individual investors. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section ***"Offer Procedure"*** on page 407 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India (**"AIBI"**) and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Manager (**"BRLM"**) on its email ID as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail Id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three additional Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company, may in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band, and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a public notice and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Members of the Syndicate and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended (the **"SCRR"**), read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations. The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers (**"QIBs"**) (the **"QIB Portion"**), provided that our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors and the basis of such allocation will be on a discretionary basis by our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations (the **"Anchor Investor Portion"**), of which one-third shall be reserved for domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation is made to Anchor Investors (**"Anchor Investor Allocation Price"**). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs (other than Anchor Investors), including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Investors (**"Non-Institutional Category"**) of which one-third of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 200,000 and up to ₹ 1,000,000 and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Category shall be available for allocation to Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1,000,000 and under-subscription in either of these two sub-categories of Non-Institutional Category may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Category in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Investors (**"Retail Category"**), in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees applying under the Employee Reservation Portion, subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders (except Anchor Investors) shall mandatorily participate in this Offer only through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (**"ASBA"**) process and shall provide details of their respective bank account (including UPI ID (defined hereinafter) in case of UPI Bidders (defined hereinafter)) in which the Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks (**"SCSBs"**) or the Sponsor Bank(s), as the case may be. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Anchor Investor Portion through the ASBA process. For details, see ***"Offer Procedure"*** beginning on page 407 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021 read with press release September 17, 2021, and CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of the Company, please see the section ***"History and Certain Corporate Matters"*** on page 221 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of the Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section titled ***"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"*** on page 460 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹14,000,000,000 divided into 1,400,000,000 Equity Shares of face value ₹10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹8,125,411,000 divided into 812,541,100 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each. For details, please see the section titled ***"Capital Structure"*** beginning on page 107 of the RHP.

NAMES OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association are Hyundai Motor Company and nominees of Hyundai Motor Company, i.e., M G Chung, B J Park, H W Baik, N M Kim, Y S Kim and B J Lee. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled ***"Capital Structure"*** beginning on page 107 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received in-principle approvals from BSE and NSE for listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters each dated August 16, 2024, respectively. For the purposes of the Offer, NSE shall be the Designated Stock Exchange. A signed copy of the Red Herring Prospectus has been filed and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Section 26(4) of the Companies Act. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see ***"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"*** beginning on page 460 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the Offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the Offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 379 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 384 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 384 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in this Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in this Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of the Issuer and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares have not been recommended or approved by SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 34 of the RHP.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS					REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER	COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER
kotak® Investment Banking	citi®	HSBC	J.P.Morgan	Morgan Stanley	KFINTECH EXPERIENCE TRANSFORMATION	
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 27BKC, 1st Floor, Plot No. C – 27 "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 4336 0000 **E-mail:** hmil.ipo@kotak.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** kmccredressal@kotak.com **Website:** https://investmentbank.kotak.com **Contact person:** Ganesh Rane **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000008704	**Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited** 1202, 12th Floor, First International Financial Center, G – Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400 098, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6175 9999 **E-mail:** hyundaimotorindiaipo@citi.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investors.cgmib@citi.com **Website:** www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm **Contact person:** Karishma Asrani/ Vaibhav Gupta **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000010718	**HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited** 52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort Mumbai 400 001, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6864 1289 **E-mail:** hmilipo@hsbc.co.in **Investor grievance e-mail:** investorgrievance@hsbc.co.in **Website:** https://www.business.hsbc.co.in/en-gb/regulations/hsbc-securities-and-capital-market **Contact person:** Rachit Rajgaria/ Harshit Tayal **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000010353	**J.P. Morgan India Private Limited** J.P. Morgan Tower, Off CST Road, Kalina, Santacruz East, Mumbai 400 098, Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6157 3000 **E-mail:** hmi_ipo@jpmorgan.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com **Website:** www.jpmipl.com **Contact person:** Saarthak Soni/ Vidit Jain **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000002970	**Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited** 18F, Tower 2, One World Centre Plot 841, Senapati Bapat Marg Mumbai 400 013 Maharashtra, India **Tel:** +91 22 6118 1000 **E-mail:** hmil_ipo@morganstanley.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** investors_india@morganstanley.com **Website:** www.morganstanley.com **Contact person:** Honi Joshi/ Keyur Thakar **SEBI Registration No.:** INM000011203	**KFin Technologies Limited** Selenium Tower B, Plot No.31-32 Gachibowli, Financial District Nanakramguda, Serilingampally Hyderabad 500 032 Telangana, India **Tel:** +91 40 6716 2222/ 1800 309 4001 **E-mail:** hmil.ipo@kfintech.com **Investor grievance e-mail:** einward.ris@kfintech.com **Website:** www.kfintech.com **Contact person:** M Murali Krishna **SEBI Registration No.:** INR000000221	**Divya Venkat** Plot No. H-1, SIPCOT Industrial Park Irrungattukottai, Sriperumbudur Taluk Kancheepuram District - 602 105 Tamil Nadu, India **Tel:** +91 44 6710 5135 **E-mail:** complianceofficer@hmil.net Investors can contact our Company Secretary and Compliance Officer, the BRLMs or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related problems, such as non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer-related queries and for redressal of complaints, Investors may also write to the BRLMs.

Availability of the RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the ***"Risk Factors"*** beginning on page 34 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP is available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited at www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited at https://www.business.hsbc.co.in/en-gb/regulations/hsbc-securities-and-capital-market, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited at www.jpmipl.com and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited at www.morganstanley.com, respectively.

Availability of the Abridged Prospectus: A copy of the abridged prospectus shall be available on the website of the Company, BRLMs and the Registrar to the Offer at www.hyundai.com/in/en, https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, https://www.business.hsbc.co.in/en-gb/regulations/hsbc-securities-and-capital-market, www.jpmipl.com, www.morganstanley.com and www.kfintech.com, respectively.

Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Corporate Office of the Company, Hyundai Motor India Limited, Tel: +91 44 6710 5135 the BRLMs: Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Tel: +91 22 4336 0000, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Tel: +91 22 6175 9999, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, Tel: +91 22 6864 1289, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited, Tel: +91 22 6157 3000 and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Tel: +91 22 6118 1000 at the select locations of the Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of NSE and BSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-syndicate members: Almondz Global Securities Ltd., Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Ltd., Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Asit C. Mehta Investment Interrmediates Ltd., Axis Capital Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, HDFC Securities Limited, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, ICICI Securities Limited, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Limited, IIFL Securities Ltd., JM Financial Services Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, J.P. Morgan India Private Limite, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt. Ltd., Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Religare Securites Limited, Rikhav Securities Limited, RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, SBIcap Securities Limited, Sharekhan Ltd., SMC Global Securities Ltd., Viren M Shah, YES Securities (India) Limited.

Syndicate member: Kotak Securities Limited

Escrow Collection Banks: HDFC Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited

Refund Bank: ICICI Bank Limited

Public Offer Account Bank: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Sponsor Banks: HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and Axis Bank Limited

UPI: UPI Bidders can also bid through UPI Mechanism.

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Divya Venkat
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Date: October 14, 2024

HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the red herring prospectus dated October 8, 2024 (**"RHP"**) with the Registrar of Companies, Tamil Nadu at Chennai (**"RoC"**) on October 8, 2024. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.hyundai.com/in/en and on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, J.P. Morgan India Private Limited and Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited at https://investmentbank.kotak.com, www.online.citibank.co.in/rhtm/citigroupglobalscreen1.htm, https://www.business.hsbc.co.in/engb/regulations/hsbc-securities-and-capital-market, www.jpmipl.com and www.morganstanley.com, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, please see the section entitled ***'Risk Factors'*** on page 34 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI for making any investment decision.

This announcement is not an offer of securities for sale in the United States or elsewhere. This announcement has been prepared for publication in India only and is not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States. The Equity Shares have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state law of the United States and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act or any state law of the United States. There will be no public offering of the Equity Shares in the United States.

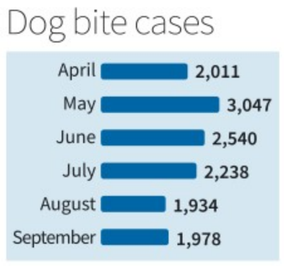
Adfactors

Bengaluru sees 13,748 dog-bite cases in the last six months

BBMP official says as many dogs starve due to non-availability of food, they become aggressive. The civic body has now asked people to participate in the initiative to create feeding areas for stray dogs

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

BBMP is implementing the Animal Birth Control programme under which the dogs are sterilised. They are also vaccinated for rabies and other diseases. FILE PHOTO



In the last six months, between April and September, Bengaluru recorded 13,748 cases of dog-bite, highlighting the need for rigorous implementation of measures the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced in the wake of the death of an elderly woman after a pack of dogs attacked her.

According to the data shared by the Animal Husbandry Department, May saw the highest number of cases, with 3,047 dog bite cases. The lowest number, with 1,934 cases, was recorded in August. Annually, the city records an average of 30,000-35,000 dog bites, officials admitted.

It may be recalled that a 76-year-old retired teacher was killed after nearly a dozen stray dogs attacked her on August 28 during her morning walk in North Bengaluru.

In the attack that lasted a few minutes, the dogs bit her multiple times all over her body. On September 28, when two children were walking at a defence colony in Jalahalli, a dog bit the leg of a girl child.

A few moments later, a pack of dogs pulled the girl. Fortunately, the girl was rescued by a resident who shooed away the dogs. The girl was treated and has recovered now. This incident had come to light on October 13.

A senior BBMP official said as many dogs starve due to the non-availability of food, they become aggressive.

"As a result, they attack people. This usually happens in the morning or dark hours. The BBMP has now asked people to participate in the initiative to create feeding areas for stray dogs. The BBMP has already started implementing the same. In the coming days, the BBMP is expecting dog bite cases to come down," said the official.

On the other hand, the BBMP is implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme under which the dogs are sterilised. They are also vaccinated for rabies and other diseases. To track ABC, BBMP is inserting microchips, which provide data of vaccination, sterilisation and location of the strays.

Meanwhile, Animal Rights activist Arun Prasad said the BBMP does not have a system to segregate pet and stray dog bites, which could have exaggerated the number of dog bites. "While feeding is a key to containing dog bites, as dogs fighting for food will make them aggressive, the BBMP has to create a space to provide food for all the dogs living in the designated territory. The dogs then will not quarrel for food and stay calm," he added.

State govt. has the power to appoint officers to Group A posts in BBMP: High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FROM THE COURT

The State's control over these appointments is essential for the coordination of State-wide development policies

Karnataka government has the power to appoint Group A officers to the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and other similar urban local bodies, said the High Court of Karnataka, while upholding the legality of Rule 4 (a) of BBMP (General Cadre and Recruitment of Officers and Employees) Rules, 2018.

"The State's reserved power to appoint Group A officers under Rule 4 (a) is a constitutional safeguard that ensures efficiency, competency, and alignment with broader State policies. Judicial precedents have reinforced the State's supervisory role over local bodies, ensuring that strategic, merit-based, and non-partisan appointments are made to these senior positions," the Court observed.

Preserving balance

This power, the Court said, preserves the delicate balance between local governance autonomy and State control necessary for effective and uniform public administration

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum passed the order while dismissing a petition filed by the BBMP Officers and Employees' Welfare Association, which had challenged the legality of Rule 4 (a), which empowers the State to appoint offices to Group A posts in the BBMP. The Court rejected the association's contention that it is only the BBMP's Chief Commissioner who has the power to make appointments to these posts.

Citing apex court's judgements on State government's control over local bodies, the High Court said strategic overseeing by the State government is necessary for maintaining consistency in governance and development policies.

Control is essential

"The State's control over these appointments is essential for the coordination of state-wide development policies, especially in a city like Bengaluru, where urban development and governance are crucial to the State's economic growth," the High Court observed.

Another important aspect of State control over Group A appointments is to safeguard these positions from local political interference, the High Court said while pointing out that the State government's direct involvement ensures that appointments are based on objective criteria rather than local political dynamics, which may skew recruitment for short-term political gains.

Employ Kannada-knowing staff in the banking sector, says KDA chairperson

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kannada Development Authority chairperson Purushottam Bilimale has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to ensure that employees in the banking sector who have direct customer interface should be people who can converse and transact in Kannada.

In an appeal to the Minister, he has taken exception to the "imposition of Hindi", particularly in the South Indian States, and said that the disinterest of banking staff to interact with the customer in the local languages was harming the spirit of federalism, and particular as a person hailing from South India, Ms. Sitharaman should intervene in the matter.

"As a South Indian, I need not have to explain to you the needless Hindi imposition in Central government offices, banks and post offices located across our states. You, too, have been quite vocal in asking banks to review the staff of their communicative skills in local languages who are posted at branch levels. It was also very pleasing for us to know that you had instructed banks that the staff who could not communicate in the local languages should be kept away from customer-facing jobs," he stated in his letter.

"Two years down the line, there seems to be little difference in the ground reality. It is sad to hear many incidents of altercations happening between the rude staff and hapless customers," he said, requesting her early intervention.

Letter to DCs

Mr. Bilimale has also written to Deputy Commissioners of all districts asking them to hold meetings with financial institutions in their jurisdiction to ensure that local language is used in daily transactions.

Professor attempts suicide on college premises

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 44-year-old English professor of a private college allegedly attempted to end her life on the college premises alleging harassment by the principal and her colleagues in Tilak Nagar police station limits on Monday.

The victim, Shabana Ateeq, who works at SSMRV college in Jayanagar, reportedly attempted suicide in the staffroom soon after coming out from the principal's chamber and collapsed.

She was rushed to a private hospital where she is being treated and said to be out of danger.

While Shabana, who had been working in the college for the last 2 years and 8 months, alleged harassment by her seniors, the probe revealed that there was an internal inquiry against her.

On Monday, the Principal summoned her to inform that the inquiry found her guilty and asked her to hand over the HOD post and even change her seating position as punishment, said the police.

Dejected by this, she had taken the extreme step, the police added.

((If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

From Page One

Soon, harness wind energy by installing turbines on roofs

"If the consumer fails to commission the RAT plant with solar or without solar within 180 days, the applicable tariff for the electricity supplied from the RAT plant shall be the tariff determined by the Commission prevailing on the date of commissioning or 90% of the PPA tariff agreed, whichever is lower," the draft regulations say.

The draft will be finalised within 30 days of its publication in the official gazette (October 9) and suggestions/views for the draft from the stakeholders can be submitted to the Secretary of KERC before that.

Special court grants bail to ex-Minister Nagendra

These funds were allegedly siphoned off through shell accounts and converted into cash and bullion, the ED had said while alleging that ₹20.19 crore of the diverted funds were used to support a candidate in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from the Ballari constituency and to cover Mr. Nagendra's personal expenses.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 15, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- On Samsung workers' right to unionise **newsth.live/samsungworkerexp**
- Studies zero in on biology TB bacteria uses to evade immune response **newsth.live/tbbacteriastudies**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

GOLD MEDAL IN CLASSIC POWERLIFTING

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No.2 AFS Jalahalli, Bengaluru, proudly congratulates Devika Ashwin Desai of Class XII for winning four gold medals in the Classic Powerlifting event at the Commonwealth Powerlifting and Bench Press Championship held in South Africa. This remarkable achievement brings immense pride to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, particularly the Bengaluru region. Deputy Commissioner Shri Dharmendra Patle, Assistant Commissioners, Principal, teachers, staff, and students extended their warmest congratulations to Devika and wished her continued success in future competitions.

ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEET

St. Joseph's School CBSE hosted their Annual Athletic Meet, a vibrant celebration of youthful energy and competitive spirit, marking the decennial year of the institution. The event was graced by Chief Guest Sucheta Deb Burman, an accomplished ultra-marathon swimmer and alumni. Her inspiring achievements in open water swimming added significance to the day. The meet featured various races, drills, and displays from students across all grades, showcasing teamwork and talent. In her address, Sucheta shared valuable insights on perseverance and overcoming challenges, encouraging students to embrace obstacles as opportunities for growth. The day concluded with a grand finale of celebration and achievement.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

St. Claret School, Jalahalli, proudly announces that two students participated in the District Level Ball Badminton match and emerged as runners-up. Yuvaraj from Class VIII has been selected for the Divisional Level Tournament.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

On 'World Sight Day,' Titan Eye+ introduces 'The Eye Test Menu,' a major step toward making Indian roads safe

Titan Eye+ aims to increase awareness amongst truck, rickshaw and cab drivers, as well as delivery personnel. Since June 2024, Titan Eye+ has screened over 7,000 drivers in more than 900 locations across India. As part of its theme to make Indian roads safer, Titan Eye+, India's leading eye care brand, has launched a drive to address a critical issue that endangers lives on the road–compromised vision among professional drivers. This 'World Sight Day,' celebrated globally to raise awareness about vision impairment and the importance of eye health, Titan Eye+ acknowledges the often-overlooked eye health of those who spend most of their time on the road. As one of many initiatives, they have introduced the "Eye Test Menu," a creative solution aimed at reaching truck drivers who are always on the move and often overlook the importance of eye care in their demanding schedules. Since drivers may not be always keen to come for eyecare, Titan Eye+ decided to change that by bringing eye care to them. As part of the initiative, Titan Eye+ set up eye test camps at strategic locations such as dhabas where truck drivers take their pit stops, transforming the typical experience of stopping for a meal into an opportunity for eye care. Instead of traditional food menus, the brand introduced an 'Eye Test Menu'–an engaging way to screen drivers for vision problems. These menus, displayed on the walls, mimicked the format of an eye test. To place an order, drivers interacted with the 'Eye Test Menu,' which immediately highlighted their vision problems. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Maneesh Krishnamurthy, Marketing Head, Eyecare Division, Titan Company, said, "Every year, World Sight Day is an opportunity for Titan Eye+ to draw attention to eyecare. This year we have taken the theme "Make Indian Roads Safe" and our roads are only as safe as the people who drive on them. The 'Eye Test Menu' film created with the team at Ogilvy is an innovation we're particularly proud of because it doesn't just offer eye tests–it reaches people where they are and in a manner that catches their attention, shaking the apathy out of vision care." The eye test camps featured on-the-spot free eye exams conducted by expert optometrists at these dhabas. Make Indian Roads Safe has not only brought essential eye care to the community but has already reached over 7,000 drivers and continues to expand its impact. Expanding the scope of the initiative, Titan Eye+ works closely with platforms like Namma Yatri and others to offer free eye tests to delivery partners, rickshaw drivers, and cab drivers–all critical members of the transportation ecosystem.

Poorvika, India's leading tech and gadget retailer, introduces Dussehra Deals

Dussehra, the most celebrated festival in India, denotes a period of joy and new beginnings. This festive season brings joy everywhere with the significance of goodness over tribulations at its core message. Dussehra also brings importance to celebrating with new purchases and fresh starts in every way. People swarm to buy everything new with Dussehra offers and transform their homes for joyous celebrations. Poorvika, India's leading tech and gadget retailer, introduces Dussehra Deals to hit us with the best deals in town on all every day Gadgets! Poorvika, also known popularly as Poorvika Mobiles, is a household name in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Pondicherry, with 475+ Showrooms and a huge online presence. Each year, they step up their previous year's offerings with even better deals during Dussehra to ensure happier celebrations. This Dussehra Deals, customers can purchase their favorite gadget with up to 12% Instant Discount Maximum up to ₹7,500 Instant Discount, whichever is higher, on minimum transactions above ₹3,000 using Credit or Debit Cards for EMI from HDFC Bank,

Federal Bank, Yes Bank, Bobcard, IDFC First Bank, HSBC and DBS. Customers also get plenty of brand deals, huge price drops, combo deals, gifts, and more benefits with each purchase. This year, Poorvika surprises customers even more with their Grand Dussehra Feedback Contest! The Grand Winner of this amazing contest wins a Hyundai Venue Car, which will be a lifetime memory for anyone! There are five Royal Enfield Bikes Hunter to be won by lucky winners, and five 1 Lakh worth Gold Vouchers await special winners. There are also 5 43-inch Smart TVs, Refrigerators, Washing Machines, 1.5-ton air Conditioners, Laptops, and Soundbars to be won. 70 lucky Winners can take home the latest Smartphone, while 100 lucky people get to take home a 35Ltr Air Cooler, and 30 lucky people stand a chance to win a TWS! That's not all. Poorvika also has 350 Mixer Grinders, 100 Robo Vacuum, 359 Pan / Tawa, and about 4550 Gift Vouchers worth up to ₹5,000 ready to gift all the deserving winners. Visit their website, www.poorvika.com, and click on the "FEEDBACK CONTEST" Banner on their home page. When redirected to the contest page, fill in all the required details along with valuable Feedback and then Submit everything without fail. This ensures a lucky chance to win any of the above-mentioned Grand Prizes. The lucky winners will get contacted by Poorvika through sms or any other given modes of communication in case they win a Prize. Dussehra celebrations can't get better than this! Visit Poorvika to take part in their Dussehra Deals and transform their celebrations up a notch. One time screen replacement. Upto 12500 exchange bonus Bundle offers.

Researchers zero in on how the TB bacteria evade immune response

Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria keep themselves protected in clusters called tubercles surrounded by lipids in the lungs. Though it is known as a respiratory pathogen, it can spread to other tissues and also stay dormant in cells for up to a few decades without causing disease

Somdatta Karak

A 3D illustration of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria. Researchers believe their survival abilities are a result of its large genome, consisting of 4.4 million base pairs. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tuberculosis (TB) is a major focus in India's healthcare goals. The country is steadily improving its ability to diagnose and track TB patients and help them adhere to the long course of antibiotics required to treat it. But with increasing antimicrobial resistance in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb), the pathogen that causes TB, many existing antibiotics aren't working as effectively to kill it. So researchers are studying Mtb to identify its important proteins and then design new drugs that can act against them.

A companion over millennia

This is not an easy problem to solve. The pathogen has coevolved with humans for millennia. Researchers have found the Mtb complex was present as long as 70,000 years ago. Such a long relationship between the two species has allowed the microbe ample time to evolve and trick the human immune system in many ways.

One of them is its ability to grow in macrophages. The first line of human immune cells that destroy many other invading microorganisms are actually Mtb's home. Macrophages are designed to engulf foreign particles, including microbes. They can initiate a plethora of chemical reactions involving peroxides, free radicals, and other compounds that break down the engulfed particle or microbe. These reactions often collectively induce a state called oxidative stress and alter the chemical nature of molecules, including the DNA, the RNA, and/or the proteins of life-forms, rendering them dysfunctional or even literally broken up. Macrophages also use diverse strategies to starve the engulfed microbes of essential nutrients, eventually killing them.

But these techniques don't work against Mtb. Mtb keeps itself protected in clusters called tubercles (hence the name of the disease) surrounded by lipids (fatty substances) in the lungs. Though it's a respiratory pathogen, it has been known to spread to various other tissues. It can also stay dormant in the cells for a long time, up to a few decades, without causing disease or spreading to other people.

Enzymes of particular interest

Researchers believe Mtb's many survival abilities are a result of its large genome, consisting of 4.4 million base pairs. To compare, the respiratory bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* has 2.8 million base pairs and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, 1.9 million to 2.7 million.

A larger genome means more proteins. Scientists are yet to understand the role of many Mtb proteins – but they believe Mtb's genetic and protein machinery allows it to lead an independent life once it finds a home inside the macrophages.

Scientists are intrigued by whatever allows Mtb to survive and persist in the macrophage's hostile environment and are on the lookout for proteins that shield it. One category of proteins called the cysteine synthase enzymes is of particular interest. They help cells synthesise cysteine, a sulphur-containing amino acid. Cells use cysteine to make antioxidants, whereby the sulphur disrupts the reactions that cause oxidative stress.

Where there's a Cys, there's a way

A study published on August 29 in the journal *eLife* by researchers at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, explored the role of different cysteine synthases in Mtb. The researchers grew Mtb in a bacterial growth medium and restricted its access to nutrients. Then they created oxidative stress conditions in the dish (by adding certain compounds) and looked for genes whose expression patterns changed as a result. This is how they found Mtb's cysteine synthase genes are expressed more during oxidative stress.

Mtb has at least three cysteine synthase enzymes. They make cysteine in cells through different chemical reactions. The scientists found that two of the enzymes, called CysK2 and CysM, significantly influenced the microbe's survival during nutritional deficiency and oxidative stress. They also found Mtb's ability to produce various antioxidants was impaired when the researchers knocked out the genes used to make either of the two synthases.

It is nearly impossible to get human lung tissue infected for an experiment. Instead, the researchers infected mice with the wild-type Mtb and mutant Mtb. After allowing the bacteria time to infect the mice and for the mice's immune systems to respond, they measured the amount of bacteria in the two groups. They found the wild-type Mtb survived better in the mice than the mutant Mtb. They also found similar effects when they infected just macrophages from the lungs and the spleen. (The spleen is the first organ; after the lungs, Mtb infects by moving through the bloodstream.)

The Mtb complex was present 70,000 years ago. Such a long relationship between the species has allowed the microbe time to evolve and trick the human immune system in many ways

When the research team checked the pathogen's survival in mice mutated to not develop oxidative stress, they found it didn't matter if Mtb had the cysteine sythases. That is, Mtb with and without the cysteine synthases grew equally well in such mice.

Undermining Mtb's survival

A study in 2017 by researchers at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, reported a list of 71 compounds that could inhibit the cysteine synthases. Researchers at Vinay Nandicoori's lab at CCMB tested these compounds against Mtb and found they all inhibited Mtb to some extent. Fortuitously, these inhibitors also made isoniazid, a known bacteria-killing drug, more potent against Mtb and together made for a strong antibiotic cocktail. Humans don't have cysteine synthase enzymes, so these inhibitors could be promising targets for new antibiotics.

The study was conducted together with Luiz Pedro Sorio de Carvalho's lab at the Francis Crick Institute, London.

In addition to cysteine synthases, scientists around the world are studying other ways Mtb survives the macrophage environment. For example, they are examining the roles of phosphates and carbon metabolism, which are central to Mtb's life-cycle. Some are exploring how Mtb develops a cell wall strong enough to withstand oxidative stress. Some groups are unearthing details about how Mtb stops the production of molecules that lead to oxidative stress; tricks a host macrophage into secreting damage-repair molecules (which macrophages produce to protect and revive immune cells from oxidative stress) sooner; or stays in the macrophages without activating its immune responses.

Through many doors at once

Some interesting new studies have also revealed how the bacteria erase the epigenetic memory of macrophages, i.e., healthy macrophages' ability to make chemical changes to their genomes and pass it on to their daughter cells.

This ability allows the new cells to identify an ongoing or a past infection and get rid of it faster. Without this memory, newly formed macrophages aren't preconditioned to face an Mtb infection.

All these studies are together demystifying Mtb, like keeping many doors open through which to chase out the TB menace. For these possibilities to actually translate into treatments on the market, there are many unfulfilled steps – including finding ways to perform these studies with human cells – and India needs to focus on them.

(Somdatta Karak, PhD, is the head, Science Communication and Public Outreach, CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. somdattakarak@ccmb.res.in)

Workers dig a firebreak to contain a forest fire at Sviati Hory National Park, Donetsk, Ukraine, in July this year. REUTERS

War turns Ukraine's forests into a hellscape

Reuters

Russia's war against Ukraine has brutalised the latter's landscape and much of its 100,000 sq. km. of forest. Both Russian and Ukrainian armies blast thousands of shells at each other every day, shredding the earth in grinding combat that echoes the trench warfare of World War One.

The conflict has innovated in destruction, too. Two videos posted in September by a unit from Ukraine's 108th Territorial Defence brigade showed a small drone trying to flush out Russian troops by spraying a glowing, red-hot substance onto a long line of trees and setting them alight.

The director of the Sviati Hory national park, Serhiy Pryimachuk, said Russian munitions had burnt vast tracts of the area, once a rare and beloved beauty spot in a heavily industrialised region.

Tending to forests is now a perilous occupation, with mines and unexploded shells hidden in the ground posing the biggest threat.

In northern Ukraine's Chernobyl nature reserve, the pre-war population of over 100 Przewalski's horses – a globally endangered species of wild horse – has been hit hard by the conflict, according to Oleh Lystopad, an ecologist with an advocacy group who said landmines were making it difficult to extinguish fires.

Protecting the environment isn't the highest priority for a country fighting to repel an invading army in a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives. The damage to forests is nonetheless part of a broader trail of environmental destruction caused by the war, which could leave a bleak natural legacy for decades to come, having poisoned the earth and rivers, polluted the air, and left vast tracts of the country riddled with mines, according to experts.

About 425,000 hectares of forest across the country have been found to be contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, an area half the size of Cyprus

The conflict has compounded destruction of Ukrainian forestland by longstanding factors such as illegal logging. Aerial bombardment has sparked large fires, while some forests near the frontline have been shelled so intensively that they have been reduced to a field of stumps.

The dense pine forests common to eastern Ukraine catch alight easily and have been decimated by the conflict, said Brian Milakovsky, a U.S.-based forester who until recently lived and worked in Ukraine for eight years.

Milakovsky said the environmental crisis was particularly acute in Russian-held areas – nearly a fifth of Ukraine – where occupation authorities appeared to have little capacity to extinguish forest fires. He estimated that about 80% of the pine forests in the eastern region of Luhansk had been destroyed.

About 425,000 hectares of forest across the country have been found to be contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance, an area half the size of Cyprus, according to the environment ministry.

The current official estimate is that demining all contaminated territory, including forests and other areas such as agricultural land, would take 70 years. Four ecologists with expertise in Ukrainian forests said the subsequent process of regenerating damaged areas would be complex and could take more decades, plus require billions of dollars in investment.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

AI in science, from neurons to nodes

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

Artificial neural networks are modelled on neural networks in animal brains. In brains, the connections between neurons that transmit signals are called _____. In artificial neural networks, likewise, _____ describe the strength of connections between nodes and how much one node influences another. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

The fame of the unsupervised deep-learning model Geoffrey Hinton developed in 1985 transcended the scientific community when it was used to forecast user ratings for films during the Netflix Prize, organised from 2006 to 2009. Name the model.

QUESTION 3

In an artificial neural network called a Hopfield network, the system strives to move to a low-energy state, in the process removing noise from some input signal to produce an enhanced output signal. The generic name for these low-energy or, more broadly, desirable end states is _____ — a term also encountered in the dynamics of chaotic systems.

QUESTION 4

The work that won the 2024 Nobel Prize for chemistry addresses a challenge illustrated by a paradox called X: that it is computationally impossible to predict all the possible ways in which a protein will fold within the time the protein takes to achieve its correct folded state. Name X.

QUESTION 5

To estimate how a protein might fold, the AlphaFold deep-learning model studies _____ _____ _____, a term that refers to the arrangement of the protein's corresponding DNA, RNA, and amino-acid sequence to reveal similar portions. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to October 10 quiz:

1. DNA molecules enter this phase when in a saline solution – **Ans: Liquid crystal**
2. Altering this property can change alpha graphite to beta – **Ans: Shear strength**
3. Sites within diamonds of interest in quantum computing – **Ans: Nitrogen vacancy centres**
4. Crystals with fivefold symmetry that is aperiodic – **Ans: Quasicrystals**
5. Crystal types made of materials with different refractive indices – **Ans: Photonic crystals**

Visual: **Dorothy Hodgkin**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tanisha Pavaiya | Dalbeer Pharswan | Anmol Agrawal

Visual: Name the person depicted in this image. He introduced a famous theoretical concept in a 1950 paper in an effort to assess a machine's ability to display human-like intelligence. CREDIT: JON CALLAS

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Mental Health Santhe at NIMHANS today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mental Health Santhe 3.0, an event that brings together experts, advocates, and the public to raise awareness about mental health and suicide prevention is being organised on Tuesday by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru.

The event will start at 9 a.m., according to a release.

The santhe will feature interactive activities, live demonstrations, and informative stalls, all aimed at destigmatising mental health and fostering a supportive community, said the release.

Chief guest

Theatre and film personality Arundhati Nag will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Driver stabbed to death by friend during drunken brawl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old driver was stabbed to death allegedly by his friend over a trivial row at a bar in Guddadahalli in Byatarayanapura on Sunday.

The deceased Yogendra Singh was working at a private firm at Narasapura in Kolar and had come home on vacation. He was supposed to return to work on Monday. On Sunday, he went with his friend Umesh to a wine store in his area to consume liquor.

During the session, the duo had a heated argument over a trivial row and in the melee, Umesh allegedly attacked Yogendra with a broken bottle and stabbed him to death.

The accused, along with other customers, ran out, leaving Yogendra in a pool of blood. Based on the complaint by the cashier Venkatesh, the Byatarayanapura police rushed to the spot, tracked down Umesh, and arrested him.

The body was shifted for postmortem and the police are questioning Umesh to ascertain the exact reason behind the murder.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, OCT. 15	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:01
RISE 16:25	SET 03:49
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 17:09	SET 04:46
THURSDAY, OCT. 17	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:00
RISE 17:55	SET 05:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	25	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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BBMP to start fellowship programme under CAC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To enhance the capacities of the Bengaluru Climate Action Cell (CAC), a fellowship programme has been instituted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Through this, bright young professionals passionate about climate change and civic issues will support the activities of the CAC with new perspectives, skills, and innovation in solving real-life problems of Bengaluru, said press release issued by the BBMP

Starting from November, CAC will engage seven fellows for a duration of one year to support its activities.

These fellows have been identified based on a competitive and transparent process which included written tests, group discussions and interviews, the release said.

Schneider Electric

INVITATION FOR THE FIFTH ROUND OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AVAILING WHITE LABELLING OF THE ELECTRICAL AND AUTOMATION PRODUCTS OF LARSEN & TOUBRO/ (NOW LAURITZ KNUDSEN ELECTRICAL & AUTOMATION)

Schneider Electric India Private Limited **("SEIPL")** invites the fifth round of Expression of Interest **("EOI")** from LV switchgear manufacturers in India for availing white labelling product manufacturing services from SEIPL, in compliance with the modifications provided in the order of the Competition Commission of India **("CCI"),** dated 18 April 2019 **("CCI Order"),** approving the acquisition of the electrical and automation ("E&A") business of Larsen & Toubro **("L&T")** by SEIPL and MacRitchie Investments Pte. Ltd. The CCI Order is available at:

https://www.cci.gov.in/images/caseorders/en/1652509382.pdf.

The white labelling product manufacturing services being offered by SEIPL is subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the CCI Order including the following:

1. The white labelling product manufacturing service is being offered by SEIPL only for the existing product range, owned and manufactured at L&T plants, of the five products of L&T (Air Circuit Breakers **("ACB")**, Moulded Case Circuit Breakers **("MCCB")**, Overload Relays, Contactors and Switch Disconnector Fuse **("SDF")**, collectively **"Five Products"**). SEIPL has since transitioned the Five Products of L&T into a new brand, "Lauritz Knudsen Electrical & Automation" **("LK")** effective 29 May 2024.

2. The white labelling services for the Five Products can be availed for the remaining period of the white labelling product manufacturing services offering ending as on **28 September 2026** for sale solely in the Indian market.

3. The pricing and allocation of quantity for the white labelling contract will be governed by the CCI Order and monitored by the Monitoring Agency - Moore Singhi Advisors LLP (mazyar@moore-singhi.in) appointed by the CCI.

4. It is clarified that any third-party LV switchgear manufacturer availing of the white labelling services being offered by SEIPL under the CCI Order, by participating in the present (fifth) round of the expression of interest for the white labelling services, will only be able to avail of white labelling services (if eligible) for a period of approximately 2 years (till 28 September 2026 (i.e., till the expiry of the white labelling remedy period)).

5. Any such eligible third-party LV switchgear manufacturer availing the white labelling services from SEIPL pursuant to this present (fifth) round of the expression of interest will not be eligible for the non-transferable, non-sub licensable, non-exclusive technology license **("NETL")** (as envisaged under the CCI Order), since no third-party LV switchgear manufacturer will be able to have a *"white label offtake for at least **3** **continuous years** of the product for which it seeks the technology license",* which is a prerequisite for being eligible to avail of the NETL.

Interested LV switchgear manufacturers are requested to respond to fully and finally to this fifth round of invitation for EOI by submitting their details at: https://www.se.com/in/en/about-us/whitelabelling/whitelabelling-registration.jsp by 15th Dec 2024 i.e., 2 months from date of publication of this EOI.

SEIPL will also conduct a pre-bid meeting on 20th Nov 2024, to provide clarifications in relation to this EOI. Interested parties to contact us whitelabel.support@se.com, for further details on the pre-bid meeting.

Specific product ranges available for white labelling will be shared with interested parties post registration at the link set out above.

For further details, please contact us at: whitelabel.support@se.com.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Estimated people who died in Delhi due to air pollution in 2019

17,500 The conclusion was based on a *Lancet* report. New Delhi ordered a "complete ban" on fireworks in a bid to curb air pollution in the city. REUTERS

The estimated number of journalists left in Afghanistan

5,100 This includes 560 women. The Taliban's morality ministry pledged to implement a law banning news media from publishing images of all living things. AFP

OPEC makes a third cut in global oil demand forecast

1.93 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2024. This was revised down from a growth of 2.03 million bpd it expected last month. China accounted for the bulk of the 2024 downgrade. REUTERS

The Indian rupee weakens to a new record low

84.06 The Indian rupee slipped to an all-time low on Monday, weighed down by a fall in most Asian peers and strong dollar demand from foreign banks. REUTERS

Number of special trains introduced by the Northern Railway

2950 The Northern Railway Zone has implemented a robust action plan this festive season to accommodate the surge in demand. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On Samsung workers' right to unionise

The necessity to form unions is obviously for voicing the demands and grievances of labour. It is therefore the obligation of the State, acting through the Registrar of Trade Unions, as the regulatory authority under the 1926 Act, to register trade unions and give individual workers their voice

LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The realisation of their fundamental right to form a registered trade union to collectively bargain for better terms of employment is at the heart of the protests by Samsung India workers' at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. They want to meet the South Korean giant on equal terms across the negotiating table to jointly frame a collective agreement regulating their work conditions.

The State government responded by forming a 'workmen committee' to resolve the problem and resorted to police violence to quell the workers' strike which began on September 9. Labour law expert and Madras High Court lawyer, senior advocate R. Vaigai, pointed out that the State's action was akin to putting the cart before the horse. Legally, she said, the registration of the trade union named Samsung India Workers Union (SIWU) under the Trade Unions Act, 1926 should have preceded the formation of the workmen committee. The unleashing of the police, rather than following the tenets of the 1926 law to register the trade union and facilitate a democratic atmosphere for collective bargaining under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947, gives the impression that the government is on the side of the Samsung management. On the other hand, the State government and Samsung have alleged that SIWU is backed by the Centre of Trade Unions (CITU). Samsung has further objected to the inclusion of its name in SIWU.

Steadfast protest: Samsung India factory workers enter their 25th day of strike at Sunguvarchatram near Kancheepuram on October 3. VELANKANNI RAJ. B

On the right to form a union

The Supreme Court in *B.R. Singh versus Union of India* in 1989 upheld the right to form associations or unions as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution. The State or the courts could "reasonably" restrict the formation of unions, associations, cooperative societies under Article 19(4) of the Constitution only if there is danger to public order, morality, sovereignty or integrity of India. The restrictions must be based on logic and not arbitrary. The necessity to form unions is obviously for voicing the demands and grievances of labour. "Trade unionists act as mouthpieces of labour," the court noted.

It is the obligation of the State, acting through the Registrar of Trade Unions, as the regulatory authority under the 1926 Act, to register trade unions and give individual workers their voice. The benefits of registration under the 1926 Act include immunity from both civil and criminal action. Section 4 of the Act notes that even seven members could apply for registration of their union. Under Section 6, the Registrar has to merely examine whether a trade union's rules conform with the rules of the Act. Speaking to *Frontline*, A. Soundararajan, CITU Tamil Nadu Secretary, has accused the State of "blocking SIWU's registration".

On collective bargaining

The Madras High Court, in *Rangaswami versus Registrar of Trade Unions*, succinctly defined the history and object of the Trade Unions Act as "the organisation of labour to enable collective bargaining". 'Collective bargaining' is defined in Article 2 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Collective Bargaining Convention of 1981 as negotiations between employees and employers or their organisations to determine working conditions and terms of employment. The product of successful collective bargaining is a collective agreement. Collective bargaining is statutorily recognised in the Industrial Disputes Act. The Act provides that in case of failure of collective bargaining, the State steps in to refer the matter to a conciliation officer. The case is further referred to a labour court or an industrial tribunal if the conciliation officer does not succeed.

The roots of collective bargaining trace back to the late 18th and early 19th century when the coal miners struggled for basic conditions. Collective bargaining has protected workers' rights post the economic depression of the 1930s and the Second World War to evolve as a norm along with the emergence of the democratic form of governance globally. In India, traces of collective bargaining could be found in the 1918 Ahmedabad Mills strike led by Mahatma Gandhi in which he initiated the formation of a committee of arbitrators drawn from both the workers, who were seeking a wage raise after the revocation of their plague allowance, and their employers.

Eminent labour law scholar Sir Otto Kahn Freund referred to the level playing field offered by collective bargaining with the expression, "power stands against power". Susan Hayter, in an ILO document, termed freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining as fundamental workers' rights. Former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a Senate address in 1937 said the "denial or observance of this right means the difference between despotism and democracy". The National Labour Relations Act or the Wagner Act in the U.S. marked the refusal of an employer to bargain with a workers' union as an 'unfair labour practice'. The same spirit is reflected in the Fifth Schedule of India's 1947 Act, which lists an employer's refusal to "bargain collectively, in good faith, with recognised trade unions" as an unfair labour practice. The celebrated U.S. Supreme Court case, *National Labor Relations Board versus Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp* held that employees have a fundamental right to organise and select representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining. The court said any act on the part of the employer to prevent the "free exercise of this right" would amount to discrimination and coercion to be condemned by the competent legislative authority.

The Indian Supreme Court has recognised the importance of collective bargaining to achieve social justice in modern industrial life (*Karnal Leather Karmchari versus Liberty Footwear Company*). The court, in *Ram Prasad Vishwakarma versus The Chairman, Industrial Tribunal*, noted how labour was at a "great disadvantage" before the "days of collective bargaining".

On the right to strike

The right to strike labour is a legal right recognised with certain restrictions under the Industrial Disputes Act. The Supreme Court described strikes as a "form of demonstration" by workers for their rights. For example, they include various forms like 'go-slow', 'sit-in-work','work-to-the-rule', 'absenteeism', etc. The court has observed the right to demonstrate and, therefore, the right to strike, as important weapons in the armoury of workers. The right is recognised by almost all democratic countries. The ILO considers the right to strike as a corollary of the right to organise.

However, the 1947 Act does not recognise the right to strike as absolute. Section 22 prohibits strikes in breach of contract or without giving employer notice within six weeks before striking or within 14 days of giving such notice; or before the expiry of the date of strike specified in the notice or during the pendency of proceedings before a conciliation officer and seven days after the conclusion of such proceedings. In the *All India Bank Employees* case, the Supreme Court said the right to form an association was a "guaranteed" one, but the methods used by the unions to achieve their purposes must adhere to the existing industrial laws of the land.

The criticism against the involvement of CITU in the workers' efforts to register a labour union is countermanded by the provisions of the Trade Unions Act itself. Section 6(e) of the Act provides for not only the admission of "ordinary members" from the workforce of a facility in a trade union but also the inclusion of "honorary or temporary members" as office-bearers to form the executive of the union. Section 16 of the same Act permits the constitution of a separate fund for "political purposes". Under this provision, a registered trade union may constitute a separate fund, from contributions separately levied, to promote the "civic and political interests of its members". The section allows these funds to be used to even pay for a candidate to contest elections to any legislative body constituted under the Constitution. The fundamental right to free speech of the workers includes their right to political expression.

On the 'workmen committee'

While the State Industries Minister claimed the discussions with the committee had led to a resolution, *The Hindu* quoted the striking workers saying the 'workmen committee' was composed of employees who backed the company.

Section 3 of the 1947 Act covers the constitution of a 'works committee'. The statute empowers the appropriate government to direct the employer to form a 'works committee' consisting of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers engaged in the establishment. The workers in the committee have to be chosen "in consultation with their trade union, if any, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926". The provision is also replicated in the yet-to-be implemented Industrial Relations Code of 2020. Hence, the law mandates the registration of a trade union before the formation of a works committee.

What is in a name?

Samsung India has complained to the Labour Commissioner that the use of the name 'Samsung' in the SIWU was a violation of the Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Section 29(5) of the 1999 Act states that a registered trade mark is infringed if it is used as the name or the part of a trade name or the name or part of the name of a business concern. Trade unions are not trade or business concerns dealing in goods or services. Section 2(h) of the 1926 Act defines 'trade union' as a "combination" primarily formed to regulate relations between/among workers and employers. U.S. courts have evolved the principle of 'nominative fair use' which involves utilising as much of the distinguishing design elements of a brand logo to reasonably associate the union and the company.

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court in *B.R. Singh versus Union of India* in 1989 upheld the right to form associations or unions as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution.
- The Madras High Court, in *Rangaswami versus Registrar of Trade Unions*, succinctly defined the history and object of the Trade Unions Act as "the organisation of labour to enable collective bargaining".
- The right to strike labour is a legal right recognised with certain restrictions under the Industrial Disputes Act.

Couple harassed by biker on Kadubeesanahalli-Panathur Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In yet another road rage incident, a couple returning home was confronted by a two-wheeler rider who allegedly tried to attack them on Kadubeesanahalli-Panathur Road near Vibgyor school on Sunday night.

However, they escaped unhurt after passers-by rushed to their help.

The couple filed a complaint at the Varthur police station along with the recording of the incident captured on their car's dashcam.

Based on the complaint, the police initiated an investigation to track down the attacker.

It may be recalled that following a series of such incidents reported, especially in Whitefield division, the city police commissioner instructed the jurisdictional police to take strict action and even open rowdy sheets against the accused if their actions were deliberate.

In August, the Bellandur police arrested a 26-year-old bouncer for smashing the windshield by plucking the wiper of the car and threatening a couple in a case of road rage on Sarjapur road.

ITC's new solar plant in Davangere to power its ventures in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ITC Limited, a business conglomerate, has commissioned its second offsite solar plant in Karnataka of 9.45 MW capacity.

The new plant, set up in Davangere district, is ITC's 4th offsite solar plant in the country, with similar units earlier built in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The new offsite solar plant was set to generate around 15 million units every year, providing green energy to the company's numerous facilities in the State. ITC's hotels including ITC Gardenia and ITC Windsor, ITC R&D facility ITC Life Sciences and Technology Centre (LSTC) in Bengaluru, and foods manufacturing units including two large Integrated facilities in Mysuru and Malur, Agri product processing factory, Warehousing & Logistics facility as well as ITC Green Centre in Bengaluru, etc would be powered by the new solar plant.

''The new Karnataka solar project will help ITC reduce CO2 emissions by over 12,000 tonnes every year. With this, ITC's share of electrical renewable energy in total consumption in the state will be close to 90%,'' said a company communique.

According to ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri, the conglomerate has set itself the target to meet 100% of electricity requirements from renewable sources by 2030. In FY 2023-24, over 50% of ITC's total energy requirements were met from renewable sources.

Registration open for Aero India 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Registration for the 15th edition of Aero India, scheduled to be held at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka, has gone live with less than 120 days to go. The show will be held between February 10 and 14, 2025, with the first three days being business days, and February 13 and 14 being public days.

"Terms and conditions for space booking have been uploaded. Registration for Aero India 2025 is now live," stated an update on the official Aero India website.

"Aero India is Asia's largest air show, attracting participants from around the world. Aero India 2025 is the ultimate international meeting ground for the aerospace sector, fostering innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among professionals globally. This event serves as a premier platform for industry leaders to connect and shape the future of aerospace," stated a Department of Defence Production on the upcoming air show.

It added Defence manufacturers, investors, innovators, Indian Defence industries, MSMEs, start-ups. original equipment manufacturers, foreign investors, fabricators, joint ventures, academia, military suppliers, space industry suppliers R&D organisations can exhibit.

It said that the show would offer expansive exhibition halls, business chalets, outdoor surfaces along with static display areas. The organiser is also offering an early bird discount for bookings upto November 30.

During the last edition in 2023, over 100 countries participated with about 809 exhibitors and footfall of over seven lakh visitors. Over 250 MoUs and partnerships were finalised during the air show worth more than ₹75,000 crore.

Landslips in Chikkamagaluru: 'Indiscriminate road construction can make slopes susceptible'

Report recommends careful slope management, proper drainage installation and use of stabilising structures to mitigate landslips. Drains should be placed such that both run-off and seepage water are intercepted to prevent slope saturation

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

One of the major reasons for the landslips in Charmadi Ghat (NH-73) is the steep cuts without sufficient reinforcement or drainage systems, say experts. FILE PHOTO

Experts from the Geological Survey of India reported that slopes in Mullayyanagiri, Bababudangiri, and Charmadi Ghat in the Chikkamagaluru district are susceptible to landslips. The GSI has submitted a report after studying slope stability at different locations in the district and recommended measures to avoid landslips in the future.

The district administration had sought expert opinion from the GSI to handle the situation in case of landslips. A team of experts from GSI visited the locations in Chikkamagaluru, Kalasa, Sringeri, Mudigere, and Koppa taluks on August 10 and 12. They studied the locations and made observations about the causes of landslips. The report, titled the "Preliminary Assessment of Landslides in Parts of Chikkamagaluru District" was submitted to the district administration recently. It was prepared by Senthil Kumar K. and Sovesh Dulal Muduli, senior geologists under the supervision of Dr. R. Sajeev, Director.

Degrees of susceptibility

The report, the experts submitted, stated that the geomorphology of the region includes both low to highly-dissected hill slopes and pediplain areas (flat rock surface). As per the National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping Programme (NLSM), 4.6% of the area in the district is highly susceptible to landslips. As much as 20.92 % of the area is moderately susceptible, and 74.47% of the area is low susceptible. The majority of the landslips occurred in moderate and highly susceptible locations that include slopes at Mullayyanagiri, Bababudangiri, and Charmadi Ghat sections.

The experts found heavy rainfall is the common trigger for landslips. Besides that, they noticed several geoscientific factors for the landslips, which include highly jointed and weathered Banded Iron Formations (BIF). "When fractured rocks are saturated with water, they become prone to sliding," they noted. Human activity, such as road construction, is one of the major causes of landslips.

Slope susceptibility

"Road cutting, particularly without adequate support structures, undermines slope stability," the experts noted. One of the major reasons for the landslips in Charmadi Ghat (NH-73) was steep cuts without sufficient reinforcement or drainage systems. Similarly at Sri Guru Dattatreya Swamy Bababudan Dargah, the experts said, landslips occurred due to road construction on a steep slope that lacked adequate support.

The report recommended careful slope management, proper drainage installation, and the use of stabilising structures to mitigate landslips in the future. The drains should be placed such that both run-off and seepage water are intercepted to prevent slope saturation.

They suggested erosion-preventive structures at river banks, streams, and also adjacent to major roads. They also suggested traffic management at vulnerable places during rainfall to minimise the damage.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that, my client Smt. PRAMILA DEVI alias V. PRAMILA, W/o. Late.C.Subramanyam, residing at No.74, Ground Floor, 11th Main, Venkatappa Layout, Kerekodi, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085 while in transit near Seetha Circle has lost the **original Sale Deed registered in the name of Sri. C. Subramanyam, vide Document No. 2089/2004-05,** Book 1, CD No.BSGD26, dt:08-07-2004 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore. In this connection, my client has lodged a police complaint to the Karnataka State Police (U/s 155 CrPC) Lost Article Report Serial No.1285162, Police Unit : Bangalore City, Lost **Report No.1285162/2024,** dt:14-10-2024. Hence, if anybody finds the said Document please inform/return to the below address within 10 days.

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 15-10-2024

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560094, Ph:080-22172614/2613

NIT No.: HSFC/CMG/MM/C/121/2024-25 Date: 14.10.2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

Title of work	**Verticle extension of change room at Training Facility, HSFC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-Civl, PH & Electrical works.**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 14.78 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**3 Months**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From **15.10.2024 (11:00 hrs) to 27.10.2024 (23.30 hrs)**
Bid clarifications	From **15.10.2024 (11:30 hrs) to 28.10.2024 (10.30 hrs)**
Due date & time of submission	**29.10.2024 up to 11:00 hrs**
Date of tender opening	**29.10.2024 at 11:30 hrs**
Earnest Money Deposit EMD	**Rs. 29,560/-**

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vendor registration is displayed in the above website. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites Expression of Interest for the **"Engagement of Consultant towards Market Study"** over South Western Railway.

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 17:00 Hrs. on 30.10.2024**
For details log on: swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Office of Principal Chief Commercial Manager
Rail Soudha, 2nd Floor, South Wing, Gadag Road, Hubballi - 580 020. Ph: 9731665968
PUB/502/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notification

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites from bidders for E-Auction for the following works:

Name of the Work with its location	Date & Time of start of E-Auction
Contract for installation, re-furbishing, maintenance and operation of Air Conditioned Multi-Cuisine **'Rail Coach Restaurant'** inside ICF Broad Gauge Passenger Train Coach to be set up in Railway land of Swami Vivekananda Park Area, Mysuru for a period of 5 years.	**23.10.2024 from 11.30 Hrs**
Contract for upgradation, maintenance and manning of AC Waiting Room with modern facilities, amenities like Multi-Purpose Stall and Tourist Kiosk at Mysuru Railway Station for a period of 5 years.	**24.10.2024 from 12.00 Hrs**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Mysuru
PUB/497/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 1in12_CNPA_SBGA_DSVS_SIGA Dated: 09.10.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Division (SBC): Provision of 1 in 12 Points in Channarayapatna (CNPA), Shravana Belagola (SBGA), D. Samudhravalli (DSVS), Shantigrama (SIGA) stations.	**Rs. 14,68,567.15**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 02.11.2024**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Bengaluru
PUB/499/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 23/2024 Date: 10.10.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	77241074	Paint Enamel, Synthetic Exterior Finishing (Apricot Yellow)	80440 Ltr.	**28.10.2024**
02	77241005	Paint, Enamel Synthetic Black Exterior Finishing	224320 Ltr.	**28.10.2024**
03	33241257	Improved High Tensile Tight Lock Center Buffer Coupler	395 Sets	**28.10.2024**
04	33241330A	Secondary Vertical Damper for Non AC LHB Coaches	1545 Nos.	**04.11.2024**
05	**For Tender No. 60245691A of Notice No. 21/2024, Due Date changed from 03.10.2024 to 21.10.2024.**			

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/503/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SWARNLATHA Jha spouse of Pramod Kumar Jha resident of No.102, B-1, Mahaveer Celesse, Yelahanka, NH-7, MVIT Bus Stop, Sonnappanahalli, Bettahalasuru Post, Bangalore-562157 have changed by name from Swarnlatha Jha to Swarnlata Jha vide affidavit dated 07/10/2024 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, B'luru

I, AYESHA Siddiqua Rafi, D/o Abdul Rafi, R/at No.S-35, Amar Jyothi Layout, Near Horeb Church Road, Thanisandra, Dr. S R K Nagar, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name from Ayesha Siddiqua Rafi to Ayesha Siddiqua vide affidavit dated 14-10-2024 before Notary Uday Kumar, Bengaluru.

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459807.
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P/72/2024-25 Date: 15.10.2024

RE-E-TENDER NOTICE

Re-E-Tenders are invited for the supply of **I) Raw Materials and II) Containers & Packing Materials** for the period from **15.11.2024** to **31.03.2025**. Last date of submission of tenders: **28.10.2024**. E-Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.

(Sd/-)
Thrissur Managing Director

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 46/2024 Dated: 08.10.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8246474	LED based Twin Beam Head Light as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/2017/EL/SPEC/0134 (Rev.3) or latest. **(Qty: 160 Nos.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 29.10.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/494/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Notification No.: MYS/COMML/21/2024 Dated: 27.08.2024

The under signed on behalf of President of India invites application for engagement of **ATVM (Automatic Ticket Vending Machine) Facilitators** on Commission basis for Mysore, Davangere, Tiptur, Harihar, Shimogga & Birur Railway stations over Mysore Division. The detailed terms and conditions for appointment of ATVM Facilitator and application format are available on South Western Railway website i.e., **www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in.**

Last date for Submission of Application: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 15.11.2024**
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
PUB/496/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute
C.G. City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow-226002
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: jdmm.sscih@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

On-line offers are invited through GeM Bidding/Bidding from Manufacturers/ Direct Importers/Authorized distributors/Dealers/Accredited Agents for the supply and installation of equipment's for various departments of the institute such as **Air Sampler, PCA Pump, Mannequin Advance Life Support, Convective Patient Warming System, Blood and Fluid Warmer, Peripheral Nerve Stimulator, Multifunction Machine MFM (Xerox laser Mono Computer Printer(Heavy Duty printer), Portable Vein Viewing Device for Vascular Imaging, Air Matrix for Medical Use with pump, Medical Training Kit with Human Mannequins for Medical Education or Training, Electrocardiography (ECG) Machine, Surgical Operating ENT Microscope, Blood Donor Couch, Laboratory Refrigerator & Video Laryngoscope & Laboratory Refrigerator, ICU Ventilators, Laboratory Drying Oven, Tissue Floating Baths** etc. The vendors are required to submit their offers on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e., Technical and financial Bid as per terms and conditions of bid document.

Note: All those bidders who have deposited their EMD against previous tender of same equipment which has been cancelled need to submit bid again with earlier proof of EMD as they are not required to submit EMD again.

For detailed information like Name of Equipment, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc. You may please visit the Gem portal. The list of equipment will also be available on our website- **https://cancerinstitute.edu.in** for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned against each bid. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full without assigning any reason thereof. In case any legal dispute; the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Lucknow (UP), India.

Advt No:- KSSSCI / PRO-11/2024-25 **Director**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit,
State Highway Development Project, PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in e-Mail: cepiushdp@gmail.com

No: CPO/SHDP/Tech/EE-3 /Phase-5 (Stage-1)/T.Notification/2024-25/3524 Date: 14.10.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF STATE HIGHWAYS & MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS UNDER SHDP- PHASE 5 (STAGE-1)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 11/ 2024-25 DATED : 14.10.2024

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Superintendent Engineer-02,Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible class - I contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD, approved vide G.O No.: PWD E-304 EAP 2023 Bengaluru, Dated:29.02.2024for below mentioned package works under SHDP Phase 5 Stage-1, as per Standard Tender Document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The Tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender Exclusive of 18% GST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	**PKG Nos. 689 (2nd Call)**	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through KPP Portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through KPP Portal	Class-I & above	11 months (including monsoon)

Tender process details: Sl. No. 1 Details: 1. Tender documents can be downloaded in KPP portal from **Dt:15.10.2024 to Dt: 25.10.2024 upto evening 4.30 hours 2.** Pre Tender meeting on **Dt 19.10.2024 at morning 11-30 hours (o/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore) 3.** Last date & time for receipt of tenders **Dt:25.10.2024 Upto evening 4.30 hours 4.** Date & time for opening of technical bid **Dt: 29.10.2024 at 11.30 hours 5.** Tentative Date & time for opening of financial bid **Dt:04.11.2024 at 11-30 hours 6.** Corrigendums, addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in KPP portal only. Registered contractors in KPWD/CPWD and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender.

Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **support@eprochelpdesk.com** KPP portal helpdesk telephone nos. are **+91-8046010000 & +91-8068948777.**

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer-02
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2511/SPAN/2024-25

E-Procurement Cell
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING DEPARTMENT
MIHIJAM NAGAR PARISHAD, JHARKHAND.

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

E-Tender Reference No.- NPM/SBD/02/2024-25
PR Ref. No. :- 337822
NIT No. :- 05/2024-25, Date :- 01.10.2024
Name of the work :- NPM/SBD/02/2024-25 :- मिहिजाम नगर परिषद अन्तर्गत फुटबॉल स्टेडियम निर्माण

The tender for above referenced work (E-Tender Reference No.- **NPM/SBD/02/2024-25),** of E-Tender NIT No. :- 05/2024-25, Date :- 01.10.2024 is hereby cancelled due to technical reason.

Executive Officer
Nagar Parishad Mihijam

PR 338890 (Urban Development and Housing) 24-25 (D)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that **1. SRI.P.SUNDAR,** aged about 63 years, S/o Late Sri.N.Parameswaran, Residing at no.1, M.K. Palayam, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore -560 005 AADHAAR NO.XXXX XXXX 9931, **2. SRI.SIVAKUMAR VENKATARAMAN,** Aged about 43 years, S/o Late Sri.P.Venkataraman, Residing at no.1, M.K. Palayam, Near Police Station, Frazer Town, Bangalore North, Bangalore -560 005 AADHAAR NO. XXXX XXXX 1083 are the joint co-owners of the schedule property described infra.

It is represented that the original Sale deed dated 16.11.1953 executed by Corporation of the City of Bangalore represented by its Commissioner Sri.K.Henjeerappa in favour of Sri.N.Parameswaran and registered as doc no.1820/1953-54, in Book-I, Volume-825, entered in pages 143 to 144, at the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore Civil Station pertaining to the schedule property is lost/ misplaced. In this connection, an online police complaint bearing sakala No.PO012S24000005643 was filed on 21.09.2024.

The finder of the document is requested to surrender the sale deed to the undersigned within 15 days from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the sale deed is irretrievably lost and certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing no.1, PID no.91-1-1, situated Near Everest Talkies, Madhavaraya Mudaliar Road, M.K. Palya, Frazer Town (Pulikeshi Nagar), in BBMP ward no.91, new ward no.78, Bangalore admeasuring On the East : 27 ft., 6 inches, on the West : 27 ft., 6 inches, on the North : 55 ft., and South : 55 ft., in all measuring 1512.5 Sq. ft., together with building consisting of ground and first floors and bounded as follows:

On the **East by** : Firewood depot (presently private property)
West by : Corporation vacant land (presently road)
North by : Site No.2 (presently No.38, M.M. Road)
South by : Private house No.17-B (presently No.2, M.K. Palayam)

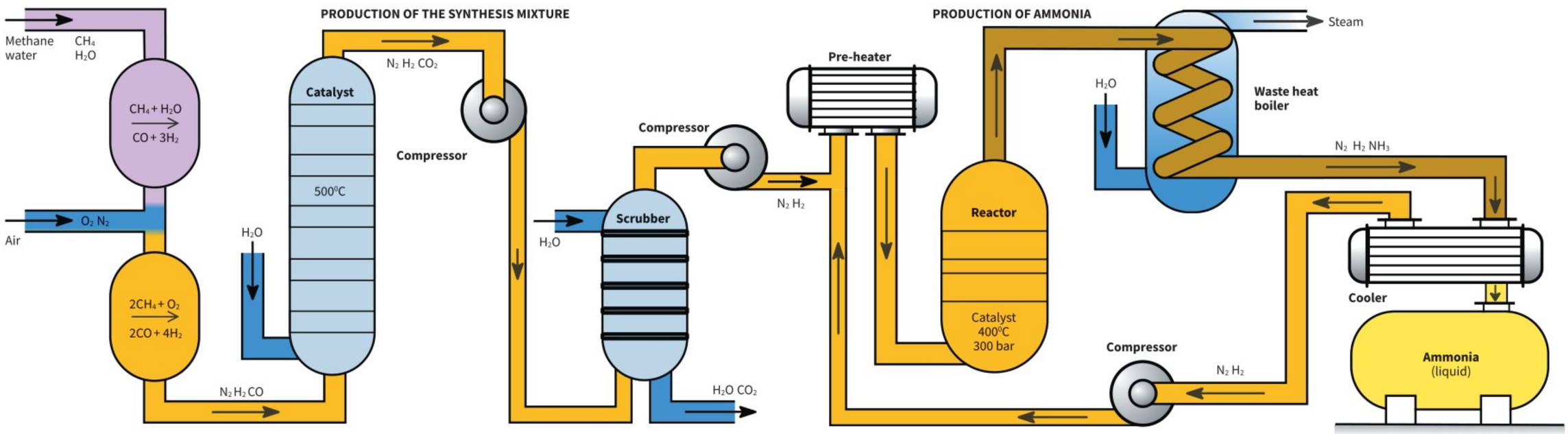
Bangalore
Date : 14.10.2024

C.S.Vishwanath & Co., Advocate No.520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G Road, Bangalore-560 009. Ph- 41247862 & 41224958

BUILDING BLOCKS

How ammonia is made on an industrial scale

Ammonia is made of nitrogen and hydrogen. Under extreme heat, the molecules separate and form a compound, but it is short-lived because of the heat. The German chemist Fritz Haber heated the N2-H2 combination to various temperatures in a platinum cylinder and applied pressure to create ammonia. This graphic demonstrates the Haber-Bosch process



Credit: FRANCIS E. WILLIAMS

How did the Haber-Bosch process change the world?

The Haber-Bosch method allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers, which was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century. But environmentalists have said the utility of fertilizers can't be taken for granted. For one, Haber's nitrogen fertilizer is not harmless

T.V.Venkateswaran

A hundred million tonnes of nitrogen are now removed from the atmosphere and converted into fertilizer via the Haber-Bosch process, adding 165 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen to the soil. To compare, biological processes replenish an estimated 100-140 million tonnes of reactive nitrogen every year. Without the industrial synthesis of ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen, we would have had no way to meet the world's expanding demand for food.

What is the nitrogen molecule?

Nitrates are molecules of oxygen and nitrogen, abundant in the earth's atmosphere. Nearly eight metric tonnes of nitrogen lie on every square metre of the earth's surface, yet it can't feed a single blade of grass. Nitrogen in the air is mostly in the form of N2. When two nitrogen atoms join together, they share three pairs of electrons to form a triple bond, rendering the molecule nearly unbreakable.

The energy required to break the nitrogen triple bond is so high (946 kJ/mol) that molecular nitrogen is nearly inert. But if the bond is broken, atomic nitrogen can form ionic nitrides such as ammonia (NH3), ammonium (NH4+), or nitrates (NO3-). Plants need these types of nitrogen, called reactive nitrogen, to synthesise enzymes, proteins, and amino acids. Healthy plants often contain 3-4% nitrogen in their above-ground tissues, significantly more than other nutrients.

How is nitrogen availed in nature?

Among natural things, only lightning has enough energy to destroy the N2 triple bond. In a lightning bolt, nitrogen in the air combines with oxygen to generate nitrogen oxides such as NO and NO2. They can then combine with water vapour to create nitric and nitrous acids (HNO3 and HNO2, respectively). Reactive nitrogen-rich droplets fertilize farmlands, woods, and grasslands when it rains. This pathway is estimated to replenish soil by around 10 kg of nitrogen per acre per year.

Apart from lightning, a gentle metabolic process carried out by Azotobacter bacteria can also create reactive nitrogen. Some microorganisms such as Rhizobia have developed symbiotic relationships with legume plants (clover, peas, beans, alfalfa, and acacia) to provide reactive nitrogen in exchange for nutrition. Azolla, a species of aquatic fern with a symbiotic association with the cyanobacterium Anabaena azollae, can absorb and convert nitrogen from the air to reactive nitrogen, so dried and decaying Azolla is an effective fertilizer for farmland.

What is the nitrogen cycle?

Plants usually get their reactive nitrogen from the soil, where they absorb minerals dissolved in water such as ammonium (NH4+) and nitrate (NO3-).

Humans and animals need nine pre-made nitrogen-rich amino acids from plants. Nitrogen makes up approximately 2.6% of the human body. The nitrogen ingested by plants and animals returns to the soil through excreta and the decomposition of dead bodies. But the cycle is incomplete: some nitrogen is released back into the environment in molecular form. Nitrogen from human waste is also rarely returned to the fields.

Although legumes can produce nitrogen independently, important food crops such as rice, wheat, corn, and potatoes and less well-known crops like cassava, bananas, and common fruits and vegetables draw nitrogen from the soil. As the human population multiplies, nitrogen in agricultural soil depletes faster, needing fertilizers to compensate.

Farmers understood this early. They cultivated legumes or fertilized their crops with ammonia to increase output where possible. They also used ammonium-bearing minerals from volcanic eruptions and naturally occurring nitrates found in caves, walls, and rocks as fertilizer.

How is ammonia made?

Ammonia (NH4) is made of nitrogen and hydrogen, both of which exist naturally as two-atom molecules. Under extreme heat, the molecules separate and form a compound, but it is short-lived because of the heat. The reversible reaction N2 + 3H2 = 2NH3 (the '=' sign has been used here as a stand-in for bidirectional arrows) must be maintained in specific conditions to harvest considerable amounts of ammonia.

The German chemist Fritz Haber heated the N2-H2 combination to various temperatures in a platinum cylinder and calculated the amount of ammonia created. He also used hot ammonia to decompose into nitrogen and hydrogen, attempting to approach the equilibrium point from the opposite direction. At 1,000 degrees Celsius, Haber found that harvestable ammonia made up just one-hundredth of 1% of the mixture – too little for commercial production.

Then Haber wondered if pressure could be the answer. He calculated that hydrogen and nitrogen would only remain united in extreme conditions: temperatures of 200 degrees Celsius and pressures of 200 atm (that is, 200-times the average air pressure at sea level). But the ammonia production rate was still too slow, so Haber set about looking for a catalyst. He also realised that if he could cool the ammonia to a liquid state, he could collect most of it.

What is the Haber-Bosch process?

A young Englishman named Robert Le Rossignol with a talent for practical engineering problems had recently joined Haber's laboratory. He created the seals required to maintain high pressure in an experimental chamber. Friedrich Kirchenbauer, a highly competent mechanic, built the corresponding equipment. Haber later congratulated Le Rossignol and Kirchenbauer in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, sharing patents and prize money with both men.

The heated hydrogen and nitrogen combination would circulate in a steel chamber at a pressure of 200 atm. The chamber had a valve that could withstand the high pressure while allowing the N2-H2 mixture to pass through. Haber also built a contraption to ensure the hot gases departing from the reaction chamber passed their heat to the cooler incoming gases. Thus the departing combination would rapidly cool while the ingested gas would be heated, achieving two objectives at once.

As for the catalyst, luck played a part. At this time innovators were looking for a material to use as lightbulb filament (and Thomas Edison had yet to zero in on tungsten). Auergesellschaft of Berlin, a German gas-lamp and electric-light manufacturing company, had asked Haber to recommend a suitable filament and supplied his laboratory with various hard-to-find materials. Haber soon began testing each of them as ammonia catalysts.

One of them was osmium, a rare and dense metal found in trace levels on the earth. When Haber inserted an osmium sheet into the pressure chamber, filled it with a N2-H2 mixture, and heated them, the nitrogen triple bond cracked away, leaving reactive nitrogen to fuse with hydrogen and produce a very large amount of ammonia. German propagandists soon hailed the feat as "brot aus luft!" – producing bread out of air, as Jesus is fabled to have done.

Haber went on to test several catalysts and discovered uranium worked well, too. However both osmium and uranium were very expensive for large-scale use. When Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik (BASF), a leading German chemical company, decided to upscale Haber's experiment to a factory-scale operation, it asked its own chemist Alwin Mittasch to find a cheap and readily available catalyst. Mittasch conducted thousands of experiments with 4,000 materials and found that certain iron oxides were good catalysts. Finally, some brilliant engineering by BASF's Carl Bosch turned Haber's tabletop setup into an industrial process to produce fertilizer.

Five years after Haber et al.'s accomplishment, BASF opened its first ammonia factory in 1913.

What are the downsides of fertilizers?

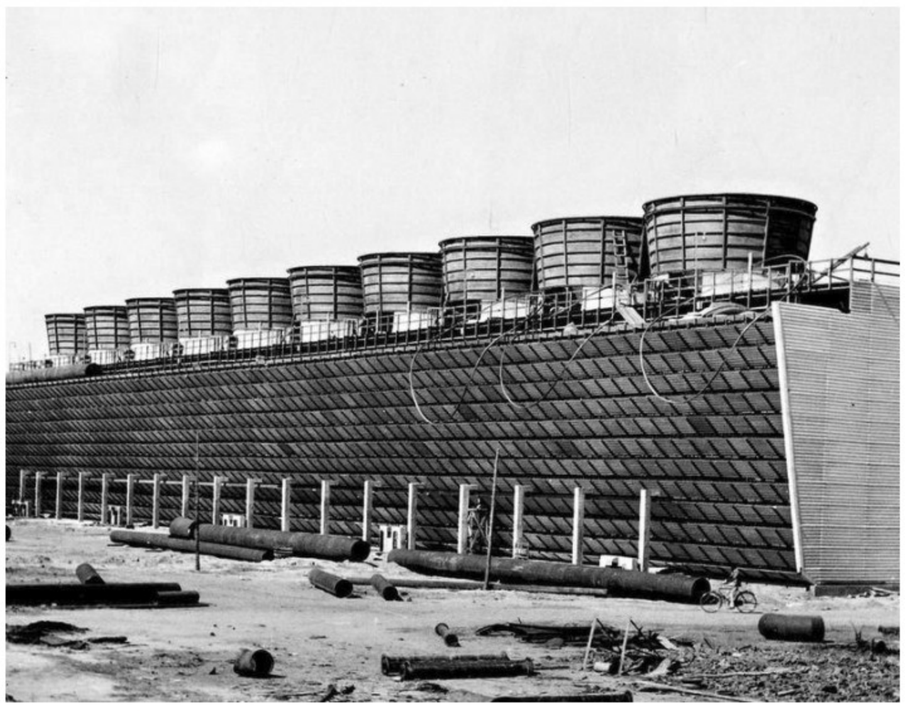
A century ago, the average lifespan at birth of an Indian was only 19 years, compared to 67+ years today. The Haber-Bosch method allowed industries to develop cheap synthetic fertilizers, which was a critical component in the sevenfold rise in the world's food supply during the 20th century. According to one estimate, one-third of the world's population –around two billion people – would be without food if the Haber process for nitrogen fixation did not exist.

But environmentalists have also said the utility of fertilizers can't be taken for granted. For one, Haber's nitrogen fertilizer is not harmless. An average adult carries 1-2 kg of nitrogen in human tissues, but in many countries, the yearly fertilizer application currently exceeds 50 kg of nitrogen per capita. The global average is around 13 kg.

The 'extra' nitrogen is drawn up by plants along with a greater quantity of other minerals. It also over-nourishes bacteria and accelerates biochemical processes that release reactive nitrogen into the atmosphere, where it acidifies rain, corroding and destroying land. Nitrogen fertilizers are also part of the surface runoff into fresh and coastal water, accidentally fertilizing and deoxygenating it. Even a small amount of moisture here causes weeds to flourish.

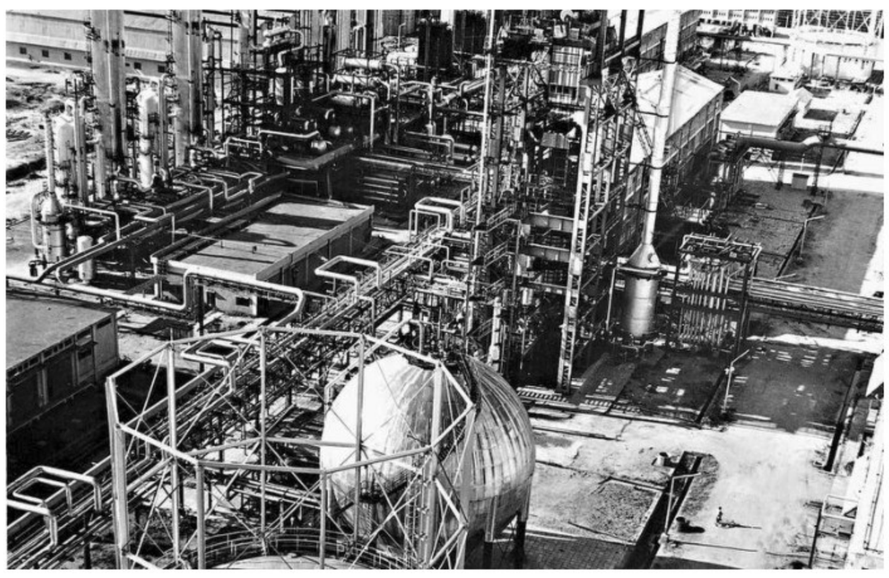
In sum, Haber's work was essential but insufficient to feed humanity. Starvation, hunger, and malnutrition coexist with godowns bursting with grain surpluses, sometimes even within the same country. The saga of nitrogen fixation teaches us a more significant lesson: technological fixes alone can't solve people's problems. We also need political action and social mobilisation.

T.V. Venkateswaran is a science communicator and visiting faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali.



On a large-scale: An ammonia plant cooling tower at the Fertilizer Corporation of India's Ramagundam plant in Andhra Pradesh. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

For the soil: A village farmer applying fertilizers after replanting paddy saplings in the outskirts of Bhubaneswar in 2023. BISWARANJAN ROUT



Production: The ammonia synthesis section of the Ramagundam fertilizer plant of the Fertilizer Corporation of India. This was published in The Survey of Indian Industry 1980. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Humans and animals need nine pre-made nitrogen-rich amino acids from plants. Nitrogen makes up approximately 2.6% of the human body. The nitrogen ingested by plants and animals returns to the soil through excreta and the decomposition of dead bodies

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

KREDL to set up battery storage systems for solar energy in Karnataka

Energy generated and stored in these projects will be sold to electricity supply companies. In the future, KREDL also plans to sell stored energy in open market at a price of ₹1 or ₹2 per unit

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The pilot project at the Pavagada Solar Park in Tumakuru district will have a 2 megwatt (MW) solar photovoltaic plant with a 2MW/4.5 MW/h battery storage system. FILE PHOTO

To make a more economical use of solar energy, Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd. (KREDL) will set up solar battery energy storage systems (BESS) in Pavagada and Kalaburagi.

The pilot project at the Pavagada Solar Park in Tumakuru district will have a 2 megwatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) plant with a 2MW/4.5 MW/h battery storage system. It has been set up at a cost of ₹36 crore and is expected to be commissioned next month. The tender for the project was given to Nsure Reliable Power Solutions Private Ltd. in 2023 and so far, while all the major equipment required for the project has been delivered to the site, civil work is under way.

How does solar BESS work?

The systems are being set up based on an order from the Union government which says that renewable energy should be stored in pumped storage and battery storage systems instead of being wasted.

"We generate solar energy in the daytime, and it is an intermittent resource. We must utilise it when it is generated, but we usually need this energy in the evening. Hence, around 30 to 50% of energy that is generated in the plant during daytime will be stored in the BESS. The energy will then be released into the grid whenever necessary," a senior official from KREDL explained.

As of this August, Karnataka has 8,904.14 MW commissioned capacity of solar energy and 34.70 MW of solar-wind hybrid energy

The BESS, which will be set up in Kalaburagi, will be on a larger scale than the pilot project.

While the ground mounted solar PV plant will have a capacity of 100 MW, the BESS will have a capacity of 100/130 MW/h. "The estimated cost for the project is around ₹500 crore and the tender process is in progress," the official said.

The energy that is generated and stored in these projects will be sold to electricity supply companies (escoms) as and when necessary. In the future, when more systems are set up, KREDL also plans to sell the stored energy in open market at a price of ₹1 or ₹2 per unit.

"Right now, we need the energy for our grid and we will be providing it to escoms. But when we have more hydroelectricity (hydel) in the State, then we might not need solar energy so much and that is when we will sell it in the open market," the official said.

Ryapte village

In August, KREDL also invited tenders to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) to set up a 250 MW solar plant with a 250 MW/500 MW/h BESS in Ryapte village in Pavagada. Sources said that KREDL has not made a decision yet about setting up the BESS there.

As of this August, Karnataka has 8,904.14 MW commissioned capacity of solar energy and 34.70 MW of solar-wind hybrid energy.

Dasara elephants accorded a warm send-off from Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A large crowd gathered near the palace to bid adieu to Dasara elephants in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

A large number of people turned up to bid adieu to Dasara elephants led by tusker Abhimanyu as they headed back to their respective jungle camps from Mysuru on Monday after covering themselves with glory during Dasara celebrations.

There were 14 elephants in all, of which 12 took part in the Vijayadashami procession while Abhimanyu had the onerous task of carrying the 750 kg howdah with the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari strapped to his back. The famed Jamboo Savari was witnessed by lakhs of people and Abhimanyu, flanked by Lakshmi and Hiranya, walked from the palace to the Bannimantap Grounds to bring the curtains down on Dasara on Saturday.

The elephants had a day off on Sunday but their mahouts were busy packing for their journey back home and to their respective jungle camps.

Special prayers

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Conservator of Forests of Mysuru Circle Malathi Priya, Deputy Conservator of Forests Prabhugoud and other senior officers were present at the palace grounds where the elephants were lined up for a group photo with the officials and the public.

Special prayers including "mangalarthi" were performed by the priest for the collective welfare and safe return of the elephants to the jungles. After the conclusion of the prayers, the elephants were fed sugarcane and jaggery which they munched on and nodded their heads, in what seemed to be an appreciation and in acknowledgement of the gesture.

The formalities complete, the officials thanked the mahouts for ensuring the success of Dasara and an impeccable performance by the elephants under their command.

Intrinsic to Dasara

The authorities had hired 14 trucks for the transportation of the elephants, to their respective jungle camps.

A large crowd had gathered to catch a glimpse of the elephants while people had also lined up near the Jayamarthanda Gate which is the entry and the exit point of elephants. As the jumbos departed, the crowd waved them elephants goodbye.

Abimanyu and company were in Mysuru since the last week of August and had endeared themselves to the public who used to gather along the procession route to watch them rehearse for the grand finale on the Vijayadashami day. Elephants are intrinsic to Mysuru Dasara and their departure from the city after the conclusion of the festival leaves a void in the hearts of many. This was evident in the size of the crowd that gathered to see them off.

While elephant Abhimanyu was the cynosure of all eyes, officials and public did remember the former howdah elephants, two of whom died in the recent past. Arjuna was gored to death in a fight with a wild tusker in December 2023 during an operation in the jungles to capture elephants in conflict situation. His predecessor Balarama had died of age-related ailment in May 2023.

KMML Spreading Splendour
The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking),Sankaramangalam,Kollam 691583
Phone : 0476-2651215 to 217, E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No	Tender Id	Items
1	2024_KMML_695886_1	For fabrication & supply of Heavy Ends Condenser E215
2	2024_KMML_696292_1	For fabrication& supply of Tickle Condenser E207A

Chavara 14.10.2024 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

'Private schools not under RTI, but officers must offer information when it is sought'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

While the Right to Information (RTI) Act does not directly apply to private unaided schools, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has issued an order asking officials to provide information on any query from the public about admission, affiliation, recognition and other details when sought through them.

The DSEL has issued this circular in response to a petition filed by the Registered Unaided Private Schools' Association (RUPSA), Karnataka, a body of private schools that had sought appropriate direction to the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) and RTI activists regarding unaided private educational institutions not covered under the RTI Act, 2005.

What the petition said

In its petition, RUPSA had alleged that some RTI activists, DDPIs and Block Education Officers were 'misusing' the RTI and coercing schools to provide information, even though they do not receive any grant from the government.

Following this, DSEL has said that since private schools are not public authorities, RTI activists are not allowed to apply directly to a private unaided school, and officials cannot transfer any application under RTI to them as per the Act. However, it is the responsibility of the controlling officers of private schools to provide the documents or information related to private unaided schools.

The responsibility of providing the information, in turn, has to be performed by the departmental officers concerned when it is sought by the public, the circular states.

No direct transfer

Further, DSEL said that it has been found that information officers of some taluk transfer applications submitted under the RTI to the school managements under Rule-6 (3) seeking documents.

Since private unaided schools are not allowed to transfer applications under the RTI Act as per rules, they have instructed the taluk level information officers to take action to provide information at their level as per rules.

Previous incidents

"There were some incidents where RTI activists asked for information about private schools and filed applications under the Act, but the concerned applications were sent to the schools by the authorities. In addition, there were also incidents where a few officials held unofficial meetings with RTI activists and private schools managements, and offered them information. However, providing information on RTI applications is the responsibility of officials, not private educational institutions. Therefore, a circular has been issued in this context," said senior officials of the department.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest

(RIL/E&P/EOI/2024/02)

For Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6)

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 10,00,122 crore (US$ 119.9 billion), cash profit of ₹ 1,41,969 crore (US$ 17.0 billion) and net profit of ₹ 79,020 crore (US$ 9.5 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2024. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, advanced materials and composites, renewables (solar and hydrogen), retail and digital services. Currently ranked 86th, Reliance is the largest private sector company from India to be featured in Fortune's Global 500 list of 'World's Largest Companies' for 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as operator, on behalf of itself & its co-venturer BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors/ Vendors for following categories, for Deep-water Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) in East coast of India.:

Category Number	Category Description
OAM/KGD6/2024/1	Services for painting and fabrication (modification / repair) jobs of high raise structures and buildings through rope access
OAM/KGD6/2024/2	Services for Operation and Maintenance of laboratory for Oil and Gas analysis

Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website **www.ril.com (eB2B> Suppliers> E&P Notices for EOI)** for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on **deveoiresponse.eandp@ril.com, on or before 4 November 2024**. Subject of the mail should mention **"RIL/E&P/EOI/2024/02"** along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents. .

Address for Communication

Chief – Supply Chain Management,
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THE HINDU

T&C apply*

Congress challenges BJP leader, RSS to follow example

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the family of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) with an intention to return the land allotted to Siddharth Vihar Trust in Bengaluru, the Congress has challenged Leader of the Opposition in Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy to follow the example.

'Unblemished career'
"By returning five acres legally allotted to Siddharth Vihar Trust, Mr. Kharge and his son Rahul Kharge have shown the ideal path. Will the BJP and the RSS also follow a similar path? Mr. Rahul Kharge has decided to return the land after baseless allegations were levelled against his father who has an unblemished five-decade-long political career," KPCC working president Manjunath Bhandary said in a release.

Allotments to RSS
He further said: "Mr. Narayanswamy has taken CA site from the Karnataka Housing Board on the pretext of setting up an educational institution but is running a hotel. Will he also return the land?"

In September, a Congress delegation had met Governor Thaawarchand Gelot and petitioned for the disqualification Mr. Narayanaswamy from the House and the post in connection with the alleged land-grab case.

On Chanakya University
Mr Bhandary further said: "During the BJP rule, Chanakya University was allotted 116 acres for ₹50 crore causing loss of ₹137 crore to the exchequer. Let the RSS follow the ideal path to return it."

Mr. Bhandary said that during the tenure of Basavaraj Bommai as Chief Minister, a CA site was allotted to Rasthrothana Parishath at 25% of the cost for a period of 30 years resulting in loss of ₹7.5 crore to exchequer.

"Similarly, the BJP and Sangh Parivar have got land allotment in Gomala land. Will all these be returned?," he asked.

K.C. Venugopal on two-day visit to Bengaluru from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K.C. Venugopal, Congress general secretary (organisation)

The arrival of Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, who heads the Parliaments' Public Accounts Committee (PAC), in Bengaluru on Tuesday has raised speculation over possible confabulations with the State leaders on the political developments in Karnataka.

While the Congress sources said there are no official party engagements involving Mr. Venugopal finalised yet, sources said leaders are likely to meet him in their individual capacity.

The Central leader will be in Bengaluru for two days as part of the panel's official visit.

In troubled times
His visit comes at a time when the Congress government is under attack from the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah facing legal challenges over corruption allegations, and a few leaders making statements publicly on change of leadership.

Individual leaders, sources said, are likely to update Mr. Venugopal on the developments in the State Congress and the political situation in the State in general. The Congress has also been witnessing senior leaders belonging to various camps holding meetings, raising speculation over the leadership.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said that Mr. Venugopal will be visiting Bengaluru as part of PAC's official programme.

"Since he is an important functionary in our party, it is natural that he could observe how the government and party are functioning in the State."

When asked if he would meet Mr. Venugopal, he said there was no specific plan. Meetings held by involving Dalit Ministers, including Dr. Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, and H.C. Mahadevappa, have particularly drawn attention over the last fortnight.

Hubballi violence: BJP approaches Governor over withdrawal of cases

BJP calls it 'appeasement politics'; Home Minister and CM say it was done as per procedure, along with many other cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leaders and supporters staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

While the BJP on Monday approached Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot to intervene in the State government's decision to withdraw cases against those allegedly involved in the attack on the police station in Hubballi, Home Minister G. Parameshwara defended the move stating that cases against farmers, students, and the general public had also been withdrawn along with those named in the Hubballi case.

The BJP leaders, who staged a protest against the government at Freedom Park here, also met the Governor to complain. Later, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress had taken the decision "for vote bank politics" and to show that Muslims are backing him when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's position has weakened.

"The Governor said that he would seek explanation from the government on the decision to withdraw criminal cases," Mr. Ashok said. The petition seeks the dismissal of the government for alleged failure in maintaining law and order. Several senior leaders, including BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwathnarayan, took part in the protest.

Mr. Ashok said, responding to the Home Minister's statement that several other cases had been closed: "This case cannot be compared to those filed against farmers are students." The government is trying to divert attention from the alleged Valmiki and MUDA corruption scams, he alleged.

Meanwhile, Dr. Parameshwara said: "We have decided to withdraw the cases within the ambit of law. The cases can be withdrawn only if the court agrees. Otherwise they will continue to be heard in the court." He further said: "As many as 56 cases had come before the Cabinet of which it decided to withdraw 43 cases. Do these cases pertain only on religious minorities? No, there are cases against farmers, students, and general public that have been withdrawn."

Stating that there are specific procedures to withdraw cases, Dr. Parameshwara explained: "There could be false cases or appropriate sections may not have been invoked. After verification of FIRs, evidence collection and review of each case, cases are brought before the Cabinet sub-committee under the Home Minister. In cases on the Hubballi incident, a petition had been given and discussion on cases filed against so many people were held, based on which the Cabinet decided to withdraw them." The decision would be conveyed to the court and cases will be withdrawn if the court agrees, he said, adding that they are not withdrawn *suo moto*.

In BJP-ruled States too
Dr. Parameshwara also said that similar decisions to withdraw the cases had take place during the BJP rule and in BJP-ruled States. "In fact, cases against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were withdrawn while he was the Chief Minister. The decision was not taken blindly nor was individually taken by me or Mr. Siddaramaiah. The BJP is politicising every issue."

The Chief Minister defended the Cabinet decision, and pointed out at similar decisions taken during the BJP rule. "The Hubballi case has been considered as false case and hence, it has been withdrawn," he told reporters at Hubballi in response to the BJP's protest.

'Will examine DJ Halli and KJ Halli cases'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the government will examine cases pertaining to violence in DJ Halli and KJ Halli in Bengaluru. "We will not take up any *suo moto* decision. There is a procedure. Individually, I cannot sign on a file to withdraw the case. I cannot decide on it alone."

HC notice to State govt. on PIL plea seeking relocation of Allama Prabhu, Vithal temples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday ordered issue of notice to the State government and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on a PIL petition seeking declaration of Allama Prabhu Swamy and Vithal temples, which remain submerged in the backwaters of Hidkal dam in Belagavi district for nearly six months in a year, as ancient monuments and relocate them to a nearby location.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind passed the order on the petition filed by Nikhil Vithal Patil, a law student and resident of Halkarni in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra.

Not listed by ASI
Pointing out that ASI had informed him that Allama Prabhu Swamy temple was built between 17th and 18th centuries and Vithal temple in 1928, the petitioner said that the ASI authorities did not come forward to maintain the temples as it is not listed as ancient monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

'Both temples can be relocated on the lines of Venugopala Swamy temple in Mysuru district'

The petitioner also stated that the Belagavi district administration had not acted to protect the temple, due to which certain damage had been said caused to the structures and idols of the temple, which is accessible to public only during summer season.

Stating that thousands of devotees visit the two temples during summer, the petitioner complained that the authorities had failed to preserve the two religious and cultural heritage structures.

Like other temples
Both the temples could be relocated on the lines of Venugopala Swamy temple, which was submerged in the backwaters of KRS dam in Mysuru district, the petitioner said, while pointing out that Venugopala Swamy temple was relocated in 2011 with financial help from an industrial house.

Elected to International Sericulture Commission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P. Sivakumar, member-secretary of Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, was elected secretary-general of International Sericulture Commission (ISC) for the period 2025-2027.

The election was held during the 27th Conference of the International Sericulture Commission in Bucharest, Romania, from October 10 to 12. The ISC, an UN-affiliated intergovernmental organisation, is committed to the global development of the silk industry.

Muzrai Minister inaugurates scholarship programme for children of priests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A scholarship disbursement programme for the children of priests and temple employees serving in Category 'C' temples was inaugurated by Transport & Muzrai Department Minister Ramalinga Reddy, recently in Bengaluru. The event saw ₹4,88,000 in scholarships distributed to 33 students from Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts. Additionally, ₹4 lakh in death benefits was granted to two families of deceased temple employees. The programme also approved ₹20,09,000 in scholarships for 158 students from seven districts.

Panchamasali 2A quota: CM to hold meet on Friday

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has convened a meeting in Bengaluru to deliberate on the issue of 2A reservation for the Lingayat Panchamasali community on Friday, seer of Kudalasangama Panchamasalit Peetha Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami has said.

Speaking at a hurriedly called press conference on Monday, the seer said the meeting will be held at the Chief Minister's official residence at noon.

The seer said that an 11-member delegation of the Lingayat Panchamasali Lawyers Association has been formed to meet the Chief Minister and apprise him of the need to include the community under 2A category of backward classes.

The seer said that they are hopeful of the Chief Minister responding positively to their rightful demand. He called upon the members of all units of the Lingayat Panchamasali community, including the lawyers association, youth and women's wing, to come to Bengaluru on Friday.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED
5, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.3759 / A&A/ 2024 — **TENDER NOTICE** — Dated : 10.10.2024

Expression of Interest (EOI) from Agencies to conduct Access Audit in the State of Tamil Nadu are invited from **15.10.2024** from interested agencies .

It is informed to get the complete details on the website of the department **www.scd.tn.gov.in** and apply.

Tender applications are requested to be uploaded through e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Director for welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

The rates finalized through this tender is also applicable to the supplies under Government and other schemes.

DIPR/ 4271 /TENDER/2024 — **Director for Welfare of the Differently Abled**

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My Client is desirous of purchasing the property described in the Schedule written hereunder and referred to as the ***"Schedule Property"***, from its owners **Mr. Nagendra B.T., son of Sri. Thammaiah, No. 410, 11ª block, Banashankari 6th stage, Srinivasapura, Bengaluru – 560 060;** and **Mr. Deepu H.S., son of Sri. Somashekharaiah, No. 340, Gowdaiah Street, Hiremaranahalli, Mandya – 571 434.**

Any person(s) asserting any right(s), interest, title or claim(s) in respect of the Schedule Property in any manner whatsoever or has any right(s) or claim(s) in respect of the Schedule Property, or has any objection to such sale in favour of my Client, is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned in writing along with documentary proof thereof, **within seven (7) days** from the date of issuance of this public notice. If no such written objections / claims or documents are received by the undersigned within the aforesaid period, my Client shall proceed on the basis that that there are no claim(s) and / or objection(s) whatsoever pertaining to the Schedule Property and conclude the sale transaction.

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Srihari N.S. Advocate, Unit No. 13, 3rd floor, Sri Venkateshwara Building, No. 56, D.V.G. Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004, srihari@snslaw.in

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NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY EXAMINATION – December 2024

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on **13th, 14th and 15th December 2024**.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://natboard.edu.in for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates

Online Submission of the Application Form *(Theory & Practical)*	15th October 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 4th November 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Theory Examination	13th, 14th and 15th December 2024
Last Date for submission of *"Only Practical Examination"* applications	31st December 2024

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333

- Helpline Portal on applicant login page
- Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARY

JANANAM 02.03.1946 — MUKTHI 15.10.2000

Sri. R.RAGHURAMAN
In Fond Memory of our Former Joint Managing Director

Sri Lakshmi Saraswathi Textiles (Arni) Ltd.,

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FOND REMEMBRANCE

S. SIDDAPPA
ADVOCATE
DOB: 11-11-1935
DOD: 15-10-2010
INSERTED BY FAMILY

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

24th ANNIVERSARY
IN TREASURED MEMORY OF

SRI. R. RAGHURAMAN
(former Proprietor)
S.L.K.P.Transports,
Gudiyattam
Fondly remembered by
Staff & Family Members

10th ANNIVERSARY

29.04.1935 - 15.10.2014
Sri. K.R. NARAYANAN
Rtd. CWS/S.Rly
Missing you so much Tata
By Ramya & Prasanna
9940657984, 9790933226

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Navigating neighbourhoods: BMTC's intra-layout bus service gives a boost to public transportation

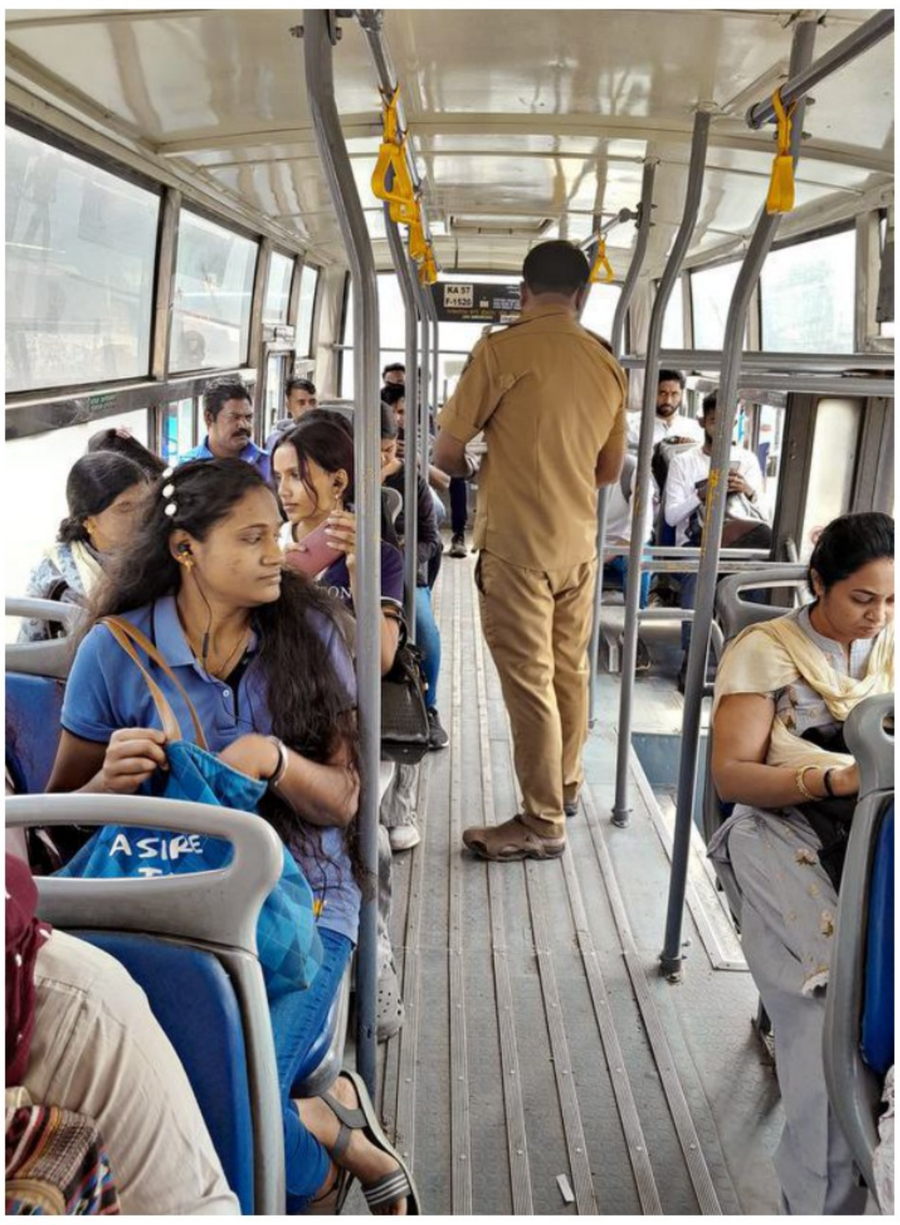
Bengaluru's HSR Layout has a unique feeder bus service which has now completed one year; and it is very popular among regular commuters. Can it be replicated elsewhere in the city?

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Ten Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses operating at 10-minute intervals in a closed loop along a well-planned route network, ferrying over a lakh commuters every month – this unique feeder bus service in the city's HSR Layout has the potential to dramatically alter the way we think of public transport: Local, reliable, planned, and sustainable. Can this intra-layout concept be scaled up?

In August, this system completed its first year, stamping a rare success for BMTC and public transport in general. Operating from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., the service covers all seven HSR Layout sectors along a route length of 8.6 km, with the ticket priced at ₹10. Today, an estimated 5,000 passengers take this feeder bus service every day, including women who are ferried free under the Shakti scheme.

Despite challenges such as the use of big buses on roads with tight turning radius, the system has largely worked. But the big question remains: Can this be replicated in other similar residential layouts spread across the city? The HSR Citizen Forum and the HSR Cyclists group, who struggled hard to activate the project over the last four years, are convinced that it definitely can.



Easy ride: Operating from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., the service covers all seven HSR Layout sectors along a route length of 8.6 km, with the ticket priced at ₹10. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Travel data analysis

But there are conditions. Launched in 2020 under the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT)'s Sustainable Mobility Accord (SuMA), the HSR project could not have taken off without intense research, data collection and analysis, massive publicity campaigns and robust citizen participation. Government agencies such as DULT, BMTC, BBMP, citizens and activist volunteers had to coordinate and drive the action collectively.

"The learnings have been excellent in the way the structured project has been executed. It is possible to do this in other layouts if they follow a similar approach in terms of three years of a stepwise journey. Active citizen engagement from the locality is the secret recipe for success," says Shashidhara K., founder of the HSR Cyclists group.

Citizen engagement

Citizens, he points out, know the pain points, the traffic jam areas, the turning radius at junctions, and the demand and supply. "They can sit together with the other stakeholders and design whole loops and decide on the types of buses. Then a trial run can be done for three months, loops readjusted if required," he explains.

Lack of adequate buses, bus stops, low frequency and narrow local roads have left lakhs of Bengalureans to turn to either personal vehicles or expensive autorickshaws and cab rides for local commute. The HSR project has shown how a well-crafted feeder service with predictable schedules can make a big difference. But this did not happen in an instant.

As Jayanthi Srikanth from the HSR Citizen's Forum recalls, preparations had begun during the pandemic. "We conducted scientifically designed surveys for different demographics. We had to ensure good representation from all sections, low economic groups and people with disabilities included. The extensive 20-25 minute survey was designed to understand the travel pattern of each family," she informs.

In all, 1,023 people from 323 families were covered. "This was very valuable raw data of how people travel from point A to B, the different modes they use and what their primary mode and objective of transport were. Uploaded on the DULT website, this data showed public transport was almost zero in HSR Layout. Buses had very low frequency, and people had given up because they couldn't wait for one hour. It was clear that 96% of the respondents wanted public transport," Jayanthi elaborates.

Focus group discussions were held to enable qualitative data analysis. "We spoke to different groups to understand their pain points. Many older adults from low-income groups and garment factory workers would walk long distances on uneven, broken footpaths. Those working in IT firms, schools and colleges said they spent Rs 50 to 100 daily on autos or other modes. They would be happy if there were public transport."

These preparatory studies and meetings were critical to designing a feeder network that worked for all sections. To replicate and scale up, understanding the ground reality is important. Mobility issues are common across the city, but local solutions mandate a sound understanding of specific localities.

Popular project: An estimated 5,000 passengers take this feeder bus service every day, including women who are ferried free under the Shakti scheme. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HSR Layout BMTC feeder bus route.

Publicity campaigns

The massive publicity campaign that followed immediately after the launch of the feeder system was unprecedented in scale. Jayanthi explains, "For 67 days, we were on the ground campaigning in schools, colleges, temple gatherings, any place where people converged. We had selfie frames at events, walkathons, and street plays. Garbage pick-up autos played our recorded messages, reaching all the houses for two full weeks."

This bombardment had its desired effect. After a few days of initial curiosity, commuters started trickling in and grew in numbers. "Today, a lot of people who go to Agara from HSR Layout, like those from Parangipalya, Mangammanapalya, Somasundarapalya and other areas take this feeder service. A lot of start-up employees who come into HSR take the buses after getting down from long route buses at Agara. There are 18 stops, and they get to alight exactly at their office location," says Shashidhara. Daily wage workers, student pass-holders, and Mitra Jyothi blind school students have all switched to this service now.

Will it be sustainable?

But will the network sustain over a longer time? Shashidhara is confident. "During peak hours, the demand is for three buses at each stop, especially at Salarpuria junction, Agara junction and Mangammanpalya. We see a lot of people waiting from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Considering the crowd and the amount of rides, we feel there is absolutely no question of the BMTC not earning profit from this service," he notes.

The huge congestion on the Outer Ring Road has helped the service gain sustained ridership. An HSR Layout resident, Zahid, says people from the Iblur area, keen on avoiding the congested Silk Board Junction, take the service to get inside HSR and get onto Hosur Road ahead. But this is true only during peak hours, he adds. To sustain the system throughout the day, he recommends smaller buses that do not trigger congestion off the main roads.

Potential 'Metro boost'

However, the dynamics could dramatically change once the Airport Metro line from Silk Board Junction is commissioned. "Once the station at HSR BDA Complex is opened, this feeder service will become a huge hit. This service looks almost in preparation for the Metro. When it starts within the next two years, even these 10 buses will not be enough," he says.

Independent mobility consultant Sathya Arikutharam is certain that a fully functional feeder bus system will greatly help as the Metro expands. But he, too, feels minibuses and not the big BMTC vehicles should drive the system. If BMTC has no such buses, give that space to private operators, he says. "Carve up eight sectors of Bengaluru, and within each sector, give a service level requirement for buses at three-minute frequency. Even their fares can be regulated."

As for BMTC, he says the corporation needs long overdue reforms to try localised commute using its depots. "There are eight or nine depots. If each focuses only on the area in its proximity, the entire timetable of BMTC can be recast. So, if you are in HSR, there will be more intra-layout buses. But if you are going out, say to Jayanagar, you catch a longer distance bus at a few interchange points," he explains.

ICARS and C-CAMP partner to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) has signed a partnership with the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), under the aegis of the India AMR Innovation Hub (IAIH), to tackle the growing threat of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) across the One Health domain, according to a release.

One Health is an approach that recognises that human health is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment.

"As a part of this partnership under the aegis of the India AMR Innovation Hub (IAIH), ICARS will strive to provide funding support over the next five years, and technical expertise and network for implementation research jointly with C-CAMP," said the release.

SummitUp brings together over 300 start-up experts

India Incubator Kaleidoscope 2024 report, which was released at the event, is expected to influence start-up policy. It says incubated ventures are 2.5 times more likely to secure funding and significantly boost job creation and economic growth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

SummitUp 2024, hosted by NSRCEL, IIM-Bangalore's entrepreneurship and innovation hub, concluded with varied discussions on shaping the future of entrepreneurship in India. SummitUp focussed on the themes of "Tech & DeepTech, Governance, Impact, Funding and the Gender Lens."

According to a release by IIM-B, SummitUp brought together over 300 start-up founders, industry experts and entrepreneurship enthusiasts. SummitUp 2024 has further solidified its position as a driving force supporting innovation and growth for the nation.

Crucial part: The India Incubator Kaleidoscope 2024 report emphasises the vital role incubators play in fast-tracking start-up growth.

Accelerating funding

One key highlight of the event was the launch of the India Incubator Kaleidoscope 2024 report, jointly developed by NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore, and IIT Madras.

"The report emphasises the vital role incubators play in fast-tracking start-up growth, driving accelerated funding, intellectual property creation, and greater robustness.

Job creation

Key findings show that incubated start-ups are 2.5 times more likely to secure funding and significantly boost job creation and economic growth.

The report is expected to influence both policy and practice in the start-up ecosystem," said the release.

Anand Sri Ganesh, CEO of NSRCEL, said, "By empowering start-ups, we not only create jobs but also energise local economies and inspire future generations. Together, we have the chance to turn challenges into opportunities and make a meaningful impact.

"Let us come together to push boundaries and pave the way for a brighter future."

The keynote address of the event was delivered by Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, Government of India, and ex-CEO of NITI Aayog. He emphasised India's journey towards becoming a $30 trillion economy and the need to encourage entrepreneurial disruption to solve challenges like governance and funding – further fuelling entrepreneurial ambitions.

Customer focus

Vipul Parekh, Co-Founder of bigbasket.com, who attended the event, spoke of building customer-focused products, refining core ideas, and fostering a strong, and team-driven culture.

Among the key panel discussions was "Cracking the Code: Key Reasons Why VCs Walk Away," with venture capitalists Piyush Bansal of Aditya Birla Ventures and others.

There were also masterclasses held across a wide range of topics, including "Product Design for Global Markets" by Ravi Kallayil, CEO of Plaeto.in; "Women Leaders: Changing the Landscape of Indian Entrepreneurship" by Meena Ganesh, Co-Founder & Chairperson, Portea Medical; and "Business Models for Gen-AI & Deeptech Companies" by Arjun Rao, General Partner, Speciale Invest, among others.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 15, 1974

Hanumanthaiya Calls for Pay Scale Rationalisation

Bangalore, Oct. 13: Mr. K. Hanumanthalya, MP, today called for rationalisation of the pay scales of employees in different organisations.

Inaugurating the second conference of the Karnataka Circle of the National Union of Telegraph Engineering Employees (Class III) and Line Staff (Class IV), he said the pay structure was in a chaotic state. The salaries of employees performing the same type of work in various organisations were different. A bank peon got more pay than a Post and Telegraphs clerk. A minor official in Air India received higher salary than a senior P and T officer.

Confusion at ITI Examination

Bangalore, Oct. 13: Utter confusion is reported to have prevailed at the written examination conducted by the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd. here this morning for the recruitment of assistant executive engineers.

The examination, held at the ITI Vidya Mandir in Dooravani Nagar. commenced at 10.15 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m. as scheduled.

The candidates were made to run from pillar to post as the ITI authorities had not allotted seats to the candidates according to their application numbers. This led to a scramble for seats and the testimonials of some candidates were either lost or torn.

CITYBEATS

20-20 vision

OCTOBER 17
The ongoing Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival 2024, which is celebrating 20 years by staging 20 plays, will stage *Hayavadana*, written by Girish Karnad. The play, staged by Benaka, was directed by the late BV Karanth and is an exploration of myth and human emotion.
The play, will be staged at 7.30 pm and is open to anyone aged 12 plus. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Travel friendly

ONGOING
Yauatcha Bangalore has launched 'Asia In A Glass', a new collection of cocktails that celebrates the rich and diverse flavours of Asia. There will be cocktails that incorporate traditional Asian ingredients such as yuzu, lychee, pandan and lemongrass and more.
At Yauatcha Bangalore, 1 MG Road Mall, MG Road. Call 919222222800

Shake it up

OCTOBER 18
Sidecar, a bartender's bar from from Delhi, will take over Muro Bengaluru for one night only. Called 'In The House', it will be led by Yangdup Lama and Minakshi Singh, who will concoct a range of their signature cocktails. Here, one can explore flavours such as kari, tea leaf, cilantro, gondhoraj and titepati.
At Muro Bengaluru, 7.30 pm onwards

Celebrating SJP and VK Murthy

As part of the VK Murthy centenary celebrations, alumni of SJP College felicitated former students turned cinematographers Dilip Dutta, Srinivas Mahapatra and Ghanashyam Mahapatra

Shilpa Anandraj

Down memory lane BS Basavaraj felicitating Ghanashyam Mahapatra and Dilip Dutta, (below) VK Murthy, the memento designed in his name. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

November 2023 marked the beginning of the centenary celebrations for cinematographer, VK Murthy. As part of the year-long celebrations, senior students of SJ Polytechnic College, Bengaluru, led by veteran cinematographer, BS Basavaraj, felicitated three cinematographers – Dilip Dutta, Srinivas Mahapatra and Ghanashyam Mahapatra.

The three cinematographers were students of one of the first few batches of SJP. Ghanashyam is also the winner of the Jaydev Purashkar for his contribution to Odiya films.

Basavaraj, who has worked with directors including Puttanna Kanagal, says, "Our seniors have contributed greatly to cinema. Since we all are alumni of SJP, we wanted to felicitate them."

A group of ex-alumni travelled to Odisha as Ghanashyam and Srinivas are based there. Dilip joined the group from Mumbai. Basavaraj, who is a Rajyotsava Award winner from the 1980 batch of SJP, says, "At SJP, they taught us cinematography, direction and screenplay writing. We learnt every aspect of filmmaking."

In a similar vein, Basavaraj says, a student of photography would be taught printing, and editing. "We even had a film appreciation course so we would be adept at everything related to cinema."

Dilip, Basavaraj says, joined Filmistan Studios in Mumbai as an associate director just like VK Murthy, who hailed from Mysuru and moved to Mumbai. "Murthy worked in only one Kannada film, *Hoovu Hannu* (1993), directed by Rajendra Singh Babu, while his contributions have been massive in Hindi cinema instead."

Those felicitated learnt direction, cinematography and other aspects of filmmaking at SJP

This is because those days, Basavaraj says, cinematographers were hired by studios and given a monthly salary. "Murthy was tied to Guru Dutt's production house and worked extensively with him. Things only changed post 1980, when working for a film was on contract basis."

Before this Basavaraj says, everyone from the lead actor to cinematographers and music directors were employed by studios. "Earlier, a film would take at least two to three years to be completed. *Mughal-e-Azam* took over 10 years to complete."

In Chennai too, Basavaraj says, films were produced by studios such as AVM or Gemini. "Today, if you have money, you can become an independent filmmaker and choose your team and actors."

Murthy was a student of the first batch of students from SJP, Basavaraj says. "Srinivas was from the 1961 batch, he moved to Mumbai to work in Hindi and Odiya feature films as well as documentaries. Srinivas worked with stars and actors including Mala Sinha, Meena Kumari, Saira Banu, Sharmila Tagore, Neetu Singh, Shabana Azmi, Joy Mukherjee, Rajesh Khanna, Sunil Dutt, Raj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor and Dharmendra."

Celebrating VK Murthy centenary, Basavaraj says, was an opportunity to meet their seniors. "Srinivas was the most emotional. Dilip, who is from the 1963 batch, moved to Mumbai and worked in Hindi, Bhojpuri, Marathi, Odiya films. He made documentaries for the Odisha Government and Indian Film Division."

Dilip is still working in Mumbai and his sons too have become cinematographers, Basavaraj says. "*Choti Si Mulakat, Bazaar, Platform, Baazigar,* and *Aap Aaye Bahaar Ayee* are some of the films he worked in. Dilip is in his '90s and plans to visit SJP and revisit his hostel room and classrooms as he says he has fond memories of the place."

Dilip has worked on documentaries including *Weavers of Sambhalpur, A Grain Saved A Grain Produced* and *Wood Carvings of Orissa*, which were released through Films Division.

S Visveswarappa, a photographer to Chief Ministers from Deve Gowda to Basavaraj Bommai, is also a senior student of SJP. "When I wanted to study photography at SJP, my friends and family were sceptical. It was only when I came to SJP, I discovered how vast the world of creativity was. While I did not work in film, I did take photography seriously."

Felicitating seniors seemed apt, Visveswarappa says. "When we studied at SJP, it was all theory. Practical lessons happened only when we went on the field. With these limitations they have achieved a lot and it is an honour for us to be associated with the same college as them".

Ramasagara Nanjunda Shivarama Reddy, also an ex alumni of SJP, studied cinematography. "Govind Nihalani and Basavaraj were my seniors. I am floored by all that Ghanashyam has achieved. He was in SJP from 1955 to 1958. He came from Odisha as in those days SJP was considered a pioneer in film studies."

Despite Ghanashyam winning accolades in Hindi films, Reddy says, Ghanashyam decided to set base in Odisha and make films that promoted Odiya culture. "He made films for the health department and started a production house – Konarak Films Pvt Limited in 1960."

Ghanashyam is technically sound in every aspect of film making, Reddy says. "This is possible thanks to our training in SJP. He is 95 and still active in cinema. In 1962, he made a documentary called Maa Aur Shisu for the Orissa health Department, which won the Best Documentary Award from the Odisha government in 1975. He later became a member of the All India Panel of The Film Division-Mumbai."

Ghanashyam made a documentary on Kelucharan Mohapatra and Sanjukta Panigrahi titled *Odissi Dance*, says Reddy. "This was the first film to be made in Eastmancolor and was screened at the fifth World Film Festival in New Delhi, organised by the India Film Society and the Cultural Department of the then USSR in 1972."

Flora, fauna and the music

Wonder world From a previous edition of Echoes of the Earth. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Echoes of Earth has revealed its much-anticipated final artiste lineup for the seventh edition, set to take place on December 7 and 8. This year's festival promises to be diverse and expansive, bringing together an array of international and Indian artistes for a weekend of music and environmental awareness.

Highlights of the lineup include Mount Kimbie, known for their innovative fusion of electronic music and post-rock, and Satori, whose globally inspired electronic soundscapes promise to take listeners on an emotional journey.

French 79 will be present with his unique blend of synth melodies, while Kid Francescoli brings cinematic soundscapes to the stage.

Other standout acts include Yīn Yīn, blending Thai psych-rock with cosmic influences, and Recondite, whose introspective sets have earned him a decade-long global following.

Ghatam Udupa, an ambassador of Carnatic percussion, will represent India's classical roots, while Hamza's collaboration with Rajasthan Folkstars will offer a high-energy fusion of folk and contemporary beats.

The festival's theme, 'Symphony of Seasons,' celebrates the beauty and resilience of nature.

The grounds will be divided into four seasonal zones, each representing distinct moods through unique stage designs, flora, fauna, and waste-to-art installations.

The Electro Live Stage will capture the essence of Summer, while the World Fusion Stage will evoke the themes of survival associated with winter.

Echoes of Earth is deeply committed to sustainability, powering its food and beverage stalls with biogas, hosting e-waste art installations, and offering interactive conservation workshops in collaboration with Kempegowda International Airport.

The festival will also introduce a 360° immersive sound experience at the Big Tree Solar Stage, elevating the sensory journey for festival goers.

On December 7 and 8. Venue to be announced. For ticket and more information, visit echoesofearth.com

EATING OUT

Sky high comfort

Soul food (Clockwise from right) Berry cheesecake, tiramisu and ravioli lipari at Cosmo, Hyatt Centri Hebbal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj

Comfort food differs from person to person – it could range from dal-chawal or chocolate cake to mashed potatoes or bhel puri and everything in between – but it is a hearty helping that warms the soul.

The idea behind Cosmo was to serve global comfort food in an atmosphere that was soothing. Set on the terrace, Cosmo exudes a brightness and space that is inviting and unobtrusive. On the same floor is a swimming pool if guests want to make Sunday brunch an extended affair.

We begin with an amuse bouche of mango burrata atop sundried tomatoes and pesto. Carefully constructed by chef Chandra Sharma, it set the tone for the rest of our meal. It was followed by a refreshing salad of organic quinoa and avocado. I am honestly not much of salad person, but I could not fault this offering.

Next, we relish a nutritious wild mushroom soup and you get why Cosmo centres around the concept of comfort food. It would hit the spot on a rainy night with a few slices of buttered toast.

There is no dearth of yummy goodness that finds its way to our table. The broccoli chilgoza ke kebab and gosht chapli kebab come highly recommended and just one bite is enough to tell you why. One can be forgiven for mistaking the broccoli chilgoza ke kebab for its close cousins the edamame bean or green pea at first glance, but its taste soon sets you straight.

As for the gosht chapli kebab, its taste and texture makes you want to indulge in yet another helping. By its very nature chapli kebabs are coarsely ground, not finely minced, and chef Chandra, adheres to that culinary diktat.

The ratio of green chillies, onions, herbs and meat is well balanced with the consistency and flavours complementing each other to make a delicious whole.

Now since the aim here is comfort food from around the world, Cosmo serves Italian, Western and Asian fare. From the many mains on offer, we opt for the buckwheat ravioli lipari named after the Italian island famous for its pastas. I would suggest the ravioli of pumpkin seeds, butternut squash, tomato and parmesan cheese, a must try not only for those eager for their first taste of ravioli, but also for those who delight in its wholesome goodness.

Cosmo
Cost for two ₹1800
Hits: Buckwheat ravioli lipari, gosht chapli kebab
Misses: None

We also try the salmon alla griglia; the grilled fish was done to perfection and served with onion compote, crusted green pea and truffle tomato sauce, it made for quite a fulfilling meal in itself.

Both desserts – the Berry cheesecake with fresh berries and an almond crust as well as the tiramisu of mascarpone cream and coffee cake – lived up to their reputation of being classics.The menu at Cosmo is dotted with colour codes for ingredients making it helpful when choosing a dish.

R. Rathnakar Reddy with the inscription at Pedaramcharla village in Jangaon district.

Kannada inscription found in Jangaon

The Hindu Bureau
JANGAON

An inscription from the 9th Century, written in Kannada, was identified by archaeology enthusiast Reddy Rathnakar Reddy in Pedaramcharla village, Jangaon Mandal, on Monday. The inscription was found engraved on a stone next to a statue of Lord Ganesha, located on the Venkanna rock behind a hillock called Ramulavari Gutta in the village, Mr. Rathnakar Reddy said, highlighting the Kannada influence in the region.

The two-line inscription was deciphered with the assistance of Muniratnam, Director of Epigraphy at the Archaeological Survey of India. The text reads: 'Sri Sambeya samsara- Bhitam madisidom', suggesting the sculpture was commissioned by a person named Sambaiah. The language and script are characteristic of 9th-century Kannada.

Mr. Reddy, also called the 'Discovery Man', has already brought more than 50 inscriptions to light across Jangaon district. He asserts that these inscriptions hold key information about the region's history and a full analysis by the Archaeology Department will provide a detailed look into Jangaon's past.

Kerala adopts resolution calling for release of Central aid for Wayanad

Pinarayi claims that despite several petitions funds had not been released; Satheesan says inordinate delay in disbursing aid testified to Centre's wilful neglect of Kerala while BJP accuses LDF and UDF of using the Assembly to malign Union govt.

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to release mandatory aid for the landslides-hit Wayanad district immediately.

The resolution also stressed the need to write off the loans availed by the landslide victims. The Assembly sought the Centre's urgent intervention to persuade the National Disaster Management Authority to write off the debt.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister M.B. Rajesh moved the resolution ahead of an adjournment debate on the subject.

Seeking relief: Search operations after a massive landslide hit Mundakkai village in Wayanad on August 1. FILE PHOTO

Congress legislator T. Siddique, who moved the adjournment motion, expressed regret that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the disaster area had raised hope of substantial and immediate assistance but to no avail.

Mr. Siddique also claimed that the State government's search and rescue operations in the disaster zone had petered after Mr. Modi's visit. Revenue Minister K. Rajan said that the search and rescue operations for missing persons were still ongoing.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Centre had not released emergency aid for Wayanad. Mr. Vijayan said he had met Mr. Modi and requested urgent aid release. The government followed up the meeting with several petitions but to no avail. The government prepared a memorandum for aid as per norms and submitted it to the Centre.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said the inordinate delay in disbursing aid testified to the Centre's wilful neglect of Kerala. The Centre's "apathy" was an insult to the State.

Mr. Satheesan said disaster aid was not the Centre's charity but the right of provincial governments. "There should be reciprocity in a federal system," he added.

BJP State president K. Surendran said the ruling front and the Opposition had used the Assembly to spread lies, malign the Centre, and shirk responsibility for shoddy rehabilitation work in Wayanad.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Karnataka, Konkan & Goa and central Maharashtra. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Telangana, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.4	25.2	Kozhikode	5	31.6	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.6	25.5	Kurnool	—	28.5	24.9
Aizawl	—	30.4	20.4	Lucknow	—	32.7	24.1
Allahabad	—	29.9	25.2	Madurai	1	28.8	24.0
Bengaluru	3.3	25.4	20.7	Mangaluru	2	30.2	23.6
Bhopal	12	32.5	21.8	Mumbai	3	33.9	24.8
Bhubaneswar	—	34.7	25.2	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	32.8	20.1	New Delhi	—	34.4	18.6
Chennai	—	29.0	25.2	Patna	—	30.2	26.0
Coimbatore	15	27.8	21.6	Port Blair	6	31.0	26.1
Dehradun	—	31.4	19.4	Puducherry	—	29.0	25.6
Gangtok	—	18.0	14.6	Pune	9.5	33.8	21.6
Goa	—	32.4	25.8	Raipur	—	34.8	25.2
Guwahati	—	31.8	22.4	Ranchi	—	30.0	21.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	—	23.4	14.0
Hyderabad	—	31.0	23.6	Shimla	—	24.2	14.8
Imphal	—	29.5	20.1	Srinagar	—	26.0	8.5
Jaipur	—	33.5	24.1	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.0	25.6
Kochi	5	29.8	25.0	Tiruchi	12	29.1	24.4
Kohima	—	20.5	13.0	Vijayawada	15	30.6	24.4
Kolkata	—	34.4	26.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.4	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	10	10	37	93	69	
Bengaluru	—	30	93	47	48	
Chennai	5	11	29	52	52	
Delhi	14	88	78	259	247	
Hyderabad	10	20	46	62	126	
Kolkata	7	53	63	205	127	
Lucknow	15	6	19	80	124	
Mumbai	7	82	76	20	41	
Pune	10	99	110	50	61	
Visakhapatnam	9	39	19	29	38	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 274 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cancel repatriation orders, say Telangana IAS officers

Central tribunal to hear petitions of four officers who were repatriated to A.P. cadre

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

Four senior IAS officers working in Telangana and who were repatriated to Andhra Pradesh cadre, approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) seeking cancellation of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)'s repatriation orders.

IAS officers Vakati Karuna, A. Vani Prasad, Ronald Rose and Amrapali Kata filed separate petitions in the CAT on Monday with just a day left for them to report to the Andhra Pradesh government. Another IAS officer G. Srujana, who preferred to remain in Andhra Pradesh cadre, too approached the CAT seeking continuation in the same cadre.

The CAT is likely to hear their petitions on Tuesday even as senior officials felt that the chances of these officers getting a relief were scarce. The DoPT, they said, took a considered decision while complying with the orders issued by the Telangana High Court and after appointing a one-man committee that listened to their pleas.

The State government is expected to issue relieving orders to these officers by forenoon on Tuesday.

Sabarimala spot booking: Cong., CPI on same page

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan has urged the State government to restore spot booking for devotees at Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

In a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Mr. Satheesan protested against the decision to limit the number of pilgrims to not more than 80,000 every day.

He said that in previous years, the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) had allowed at least 15,000 pilgrims to the Sannidhanam every day through spot booking. It had allowed at least 90,000 devotees for darshan.

The CPI was on the same page as the Congress-led UDF with the key ruling LDF ally demanding that spot booking for pilgrims be restored. CPI State secretary Binoy Viswam said the BJP and RSS could weaponise the distress caused to ordinary pilgrims not attuned to making online bookings against the LDF government.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 06/2024-25 Dated : 14-10-2024

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for 17 No. of works Amounting from Rs. 435.60 Lakhs to Rs. 11.90 Lakhs and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2024-25/3387 DATE: 14/10/2024

Short Term E-Tender Notification-1/ Corrigendum e-Tender Notification

Short term tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2024-25/3108 Dated 30/09/2024 was called. Now First time extension/Corrigendum is made to extract more bidders for the all works is as below.

Calendar of events :1)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 21-10-2024 up to 5.00 PM, 2)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-10-2024 at 4.30 PM, 3)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 4)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-977/KSMCA/2024-25

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 337/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) | **Dated: 14.10.2024**

Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 357 nos. 66kV, 800A Isolators (with & without Earth Switch, and with Solid Core Insulators). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 14.10.2024 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C - 784/24 76155/12/3556/2023/38365

Town Panchayath Examba

SL:TPE:TENDER:SFC:2024-25 Date:11.10.2024

(E-Procurement) Tender notification
(Notice inviting tender through e-Procurement)

Town Panchayat Examba invites tender for PWD license contractors in KW-3 Document for Development work under 2023-24 SFC Special Grant, 1)Indent No DMA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT29871/CALL-2 Rs. 84.50 lakh, Work period 6 month.

ಅ.ನಂ	ವಿವರ	ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ
1	Last Date & Time for Tender document download	11-10-2024
2	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders	19-10-2024 @ 5.00 PM
3	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	21-10-2024 @ 11.00 AM
4	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	22-10-2024 @ 11.00 PM
5	Number of days to extend	2 ದಿನಗಳು

Above tender work details are in available E-Procurement website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and TP website www.exambatown.mrc.gov.in..

Sd/-Chief Officer
Town Panchayath Examba

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-975/KSMCA/2024-25

BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, RAJASTHAN AJMER

FOR CONFIDENTIAL PRINTERS
NOTICE INVITING INFORMATIONS
REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL PRINTING WORKS

Notice inviting information's from reputed Security Printing Organization for confidential Printing. Details of information to be sent by organizations may be seen on website of the Board https://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in

Secretary

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 336/SS(D)-II (under RDSS) | **Dated: 14.10.2024**

Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 209 nos. 66kV, SF_6 Gas Circuit Breakers. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 14.10.2024 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C - 785/24 76155/12/3557/2023/38367

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department,
Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

IFT No:09/2024-25 Date: 10-10-2024

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the undersigned has invited itemised tender for 2-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.209.52 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs. 125.32lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.3,14,300/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs. 2,00,000/- .Tender documents is downloaded from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website as per tender notification Dt:10-10-2024 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is Dt:24-10-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 4-Months and Minimum-3months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD,
Special Division, Hunsur.

DIPR/DDMYS-674/KSMCA-455/2024-25

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, 'Vidyuth Bhavan', B.H. Road, M.R.S. Shimoga - 577 203
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: SEE/EE(O)/AEE(O)/SMG/24-25/110816 Date: 03.10.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

MESCOM invites tender for Repair and Reconditioning of Conventional (Aluminium wound) and 3/4/5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities and Conversion of CSP to Conventional bolt & nut type on lumpsum percentage (%) basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at following Transformer repair center in Shimoga O&M Circle jurisdiction.

Sl. No.	Division	Repair Centre
1	Shimoga	Thirthahalli
2	Bhadravathi	Bhadravathi
3	Sagar	Soraba

The interested eligible bidders may log on to website : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.10.2024.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
O & M Circle, Shimoga

DIPR/MNG/677/MPL/24-25

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Government Of Karnataka
DDPI Office, Department Of School Educations, Ballari

No : P2/ZP/PI/GHS/MINILAB/04/2024-25 Dated: 07.10.2024

e-Tender Notification

Tender Notification:DPI/2024-25/IND0345 Date: 07.10.2024

Tender invited under two Bid System on Governement of Karnataka e procuremement platform from eligible suppliers having Instructure as stipulised in the tender Document of KPPP –E PROCUREMENT E-Tender For FURNITURES ITEMS FOR SAFEGUARDING MINILAB EQUIPMENTS PROCURED FOR 36 GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOLS OF BALLARI DIST UNDER ZP FUND FOR THE YEAR 2024-25

Date of commence ment of Downloding Tender Document: **07.10.2024.** Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting: **16.10.2024 @ 11.00 AM(DDPI OFFICE BELLARI).** Last Date and Time for Reciept of Tenders: **23.10.2024 @ 17.00 PM.** Sample Submission Last date and Place: **24.10.2024 @ 01.30 PM.** Last Date and Time of Opening of Electronic Document First (Technical Bid) & Place: **25.10.2024 @ 17.10 PM (DDPI OFFICE BELLARI)**

Allocated Amount : 60.48 Lakhs

Sd/-DDPI (Admin) Department of School Educations, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/524/KSMCA/2024-25

NAGPUR METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Station Road Kingsway, Sadar Nagpur - 440001.

e-TENDER NOTICE No. 22/2024-25

www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sealed Percentage rate e-tenders are invited from Non-Registered / Registered Contractors with N.M.R.D.A./ N.I.T. / P.W.D./ N.M.C. or other Govt. Dept. as per eligibility criteria for **following One** development work. The details of work will be uploaded on tender website i.e. www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount of work / E.M.D. in Rs.	Eligibility/Tender cost in Rs.	Time Limit in Months	Division
1	**Water supply Arrangements to Sector South-B, of Nagpur Metropolitan Region. Feeder Main, Designing and Construction of ESR's, Retrofitting of pumping machinery & WTP, Distribution system & Misc. Works including O & M for 5 years. (Under AMRUT 2.0 Programme).**	165,87,55,508.23 82,94,000/-	As per Tender Document 50,000/-	18	South

Money :- E.M.D. is to be paid by online only. **Plans & Estimates :-** Available in the Technical Section, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur. **Tender Forms :-** From **11.00** A.M. on Date **15.10.2024** upto 2.00 P.M. on Date **06.11.2024** on www.mahatenders.gov.in **Receipt / Submission :-** From **11.00** P.M. on **15.10.2024** upto 2.00 P.M. on Date **06.11.2024** on www.mahatenders.gov.in. **Opening :-** At N.M.R.D.A. office on Date **07.11.2024** at 2.00 P.M. or as decided by N.M.R.D.A.

-sd- Superintending Engineer,
Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority

Advt.No. S.E.(NMRDA)/30/2024-25 Dated : 14.10.2024

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CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BIDAR

No.BMC/ENG/CR-132/2024-25 Date:-14-10-2024.

CORRIGENDUM

Ref:- This office Tender Notification No.BMC/ENG/CR-132/2024-25 Dated :- 11-09-2024.

The tender Notification is notified vide No.BMC/ENG/CR-132/2024-25 tender is published on 11-09-2024. On public interest the tender submission of date is extended from 14-10-2024 to 18-10-2024 upto 4.00pm and tender opening date will be on 19-10-2024 at 04.30 pm, and rest is unchanged.

The contractors are requested to kindly make note of it.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
City Municipal Council, Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/200/KSMC&A/2024-25

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ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Sub: Admission to PG courses to fill vacant seats for the academic year 2024-25.

Bangalore University invites applications to fill the vacant seats of P.G. Courses in University Departments, PG Centre, Ramanagara, Govt colleges & Affiliated college for the academic year 2024-25 through the UUCMS Online portal; **https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index** only and last date for applying is **17.10.2024.**

- The application fee of **Rs.300/- (Rs.150/- for SC/ST/ Category-I** of Karnataka Domicile and transgender candidates only) is payable through online only, via payment link provided in the UUCMS platform.
- For more details about PG admission like seat matrix (course wise vacancy details) Eligibility criteria, etc, please visit **https://bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
REGISTRAR

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Taking guard

RBI's price worries may be warranted but growth concerns are emerging

In a 5:1 majority verdict, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), last week, decided to hold benchmark interest rate at 6.50%, the same level it has been since April 2023. One of the three newly inducted external members in the panel pushed for a 25 basis points (0.25 percentage points) rate cut, perhaps citing the decline in the headline inflation rate below the RBI's median target of 4% in July and August. However, the MPC termed this downward trajectory of inflation as slow and uneven, and expected this moderation to reverse from September, as it has, to hit a nine-month high of 5.5%. The panel has not altered its 4.5% projection for retail inflation and its GDP growth estimate of 7.2% through 2024-25, but has reworked the math. In the second quarter or Q2, it expected inflation to average 4.1% instead of 4.4%, but the September number takes it over 4.2%. In Q3, inflation is now expected to average higher at 4.8% from the MPC's August estimate of 4.7%, before easing to 4.2% between January and March 2025. While the MPC has unanimously agreed on switching the monetary policy's hawkish stance to 'neutral', going by these numbers, hopes of a rate cut at the next policy review in December remain slim, especially as the panel has reiterated that it remains "unambiguously" focused on durably aligning inflation to the 4% mark.

While food inflation remains a worry, with vegetable prices spiking again, the central bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has also flagged that core inflation (excluding food and energy costs) has bottomed out. Global oil and metal prices are fresh headaches to fret about, along with the ever-looming threat of climate shocks. Perhaps, if these risks remain only on paper, it is plausible to expect a rate cut in February. It is instructive that the RBI Governor only made a tangential reference to the US Federal Reserve's slashing of interest rates by a sharp 50 basis points last month as a "policy pivot", indicating that domestic trends will determine the bank's approach. But with the European Central Bank likely to cut interest rates too, and U.S. inflation dropping to a three-year low, prompting talk of another rate cut soon, the RBI may have to act faster. Notably, though it remains more bullish than most agencies on India's growth trajectory, there are clear signs of a cooling in economic activity in the first half of this year, with stuttering car sales reflecting weaker urban consumption and industrial output slipping into contraction in August. If the tide does not turn on this front, the MPC, that has vowed to keep supporting growth while reining in inflation, could have an unenviable dilemma on its hands in the coming months.

A Korean win

A Nobel raises Korean prose to success levels of its drama and music

By awarding the Nobel Prize in Literature to South Korean poet and novelist Han Kang this year, the Swedish Academy has done two things. It has looked eastwards, after going with European writers Jon Fosse and Annie Ernaux in the past two years; and it celebrates an "innovator in contemporary prose". While announcing the name, the academy lauded the 53-year-old writer, the first Korean to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life". With the human condition as her muse, specifically the question why and how humanity encompasses unspeakable depravity as well as indisputable acts of dignity and kindness, Han Kang has experimented with form and style to tell her stories. Her best-known work available in English is her 2007 novel, *The Vegetarian*, translated by Deborah Smith, and released in 2015. Winning the International Booker Prize in 2016, a decade after it was first published in Korean, the radical story, about a woman who gives up eating meat and finds solidarity only in the plant world, paved the way for her other novels to be translated into English and many other languages. Han Kang, who was born in the South Korean city of Gwangju, moved to Seoul when she was nine years old and studied Korean literature at university.

Growing up amid books – her father is a novelist – she decided to follow in his footsteps but her artistic forays include art and music, which she uses in her narratives and word images. This is evident, for instance, in her 2016 novel, *The White Book*, where an unnamed narrator talks about grief – the death of an older sister "less than two hours into life" – through white objects including snow, salt, moon-shaped rice cake, fog and breast milk. Her latest novel, *We Do Not Part*, to be published in English early next year, is the story of a friendship between two women in the backdrop of the 1948 massacre in South Korea's Jeju Island. A massacre from the 1980s of students and dissenters is also the setting for her most political novel, *Human Acts* (2016), in which souls of the dead are allowed to "witness their own annihilation". Ever since the prize was handed out to American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan in 2016, the academy has been trying to pull itself back to purists. By picking Han Kang, the academy has a winner who, in her experimental style, conveys the power of literature to break barriers. The prize will invariably draw more attention to Korean literature – its dramas, cinema and music have been already ruling the globe ever since South Korean singer Psy burst forth with 'Gangnam Style' in 2012.

Israel's brutality in Gaza, India's pin-drop silence

Zoya Hasan

Professor Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

October 7, 2024 marked one year of Israel's war on Gaza and its relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip killing nearly 42,000 people. The prime victims of the heartless war have been civilians, women and children in Gaza, West Bank and now Lebanon; 16,705 Palestinian children have been killed, the largest in any conflict in one year. This has brought out millions in mass demonstrations in the major cities of Europe, the United States and beyond, politicising a generation of people in opposition to Israel, and also making it one of the greatest issues of our time.

New Delhi's disturbing response

However, these genocidal actions have hardly provoked any reaction in India. The war itself was a response to Hamas's horrific attack on Israel that killed over 1,200 people and where more than 200 people were taken hostage. But the scale of what Israel has done in response is even more horrific. Public silence in India over the brutal retaliation in Gaza, flattening the territory to rubble, and displacing the entire population several times, is deeply disturbing. This should be unacceptable, especially in a country which led the largest anti-colonial struggle in the world, stood shoulder-to-shoulder with scores of countries in their struggle for independence, and once was a true friend of Palestine. One of the first non-Arab countries to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), India today seems closer to Israel and its biggest benefactor, the U.S.

India has witnessed very few sustained protests or public expressions of distress at what is happening in Palestine. There has been nothing like the scale of anger displayed in many other countries. Kerala has seen two big rallies, in Malappuram and Kozhikode. Other than these, and a few small protests in Kolkata and Chennai, there has hardly been any in the other States. India, it seems, is not outraged at how Israel is treating the Palestinians.

No doubt, the government has curbed protests and, in many cases, banned them. There is an active attempt to prevent people from protesting against what is happening in Gaza. Cases have been filed against people for supporting or organising protests against the genocide in Palestine. Charges range from organising rallies to displaying Palestinian flags and posting pro-Palestine content on social media. But a similar crackdown on other protests has not deterred people from taking to the streets on crucial issues.

New Delhi's response to the Gaza war is a reflection of the 'new India's' collective anti-colonial amnesia

Shaped by the elite

The Hindutva right's subordination of the Palestine cause and supporting the Zionists in Israel is the most important reason for the lack of concern. India has moved from backing the Palestinians to more or less unqualified support for Israel. This shift has influenced how most Indians view the crisis in Gaza. In the radically changed political atmosphere, the violence in Palestine does not seem to evoke the same emotion as in the past. This, however, does not mean that the sentiment does not exist. But the crisis in Gaza and India's subdued response to it points to a significant fact. The register of Hindu nationalism deliberately sees Palestine as a Muslim issue, which means any support for it can be condemned as appeasement of a community. Individual Opposition leaders have, nonetheless, spoken up in support of Palestine but hardly any Opposition party has taken an unequivocal stand on it. Left parties have unequivocally condemned Israel, organised a few modest protests, and also supported the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

But not just parties, even civil society response in India has been muted. This subdued response is largely attributable to the waning influence of anti-imperialism in India and the declining interest in the developing world and the periphery. Political interest is focused on the U.S. with the Indian government making every effort to maintain close relations with the U.S. and vice versa. The U.S. is especially interested in courting India as a powerful counterweight to China and promoting it as a world power. This matters greatly to the upper and middle classes that care deeply about India's position in the global hierarchy of states. Not surprisingly, other foreign news usually gets short shrift. Yet, for the past year, the country's television channels have provided full coverage of events in Israel and Gaza, but mostly from Israel's perspective, invoking the prism of fighting terrorism and sidelining the core political issues. This suits the elite that supports the shifting stance on Palestine while ignoring the twin frames of colonisation and decolonisation driving this conflict.

In its place, there is much greater acceptance of the official line that the central issue is fighting terrorism. As a corollary, India must then support this given that we are victims of terrorist attacks from across the border. But the problem in Palestine did not start on October 7; there is a much wider historical context, which liberal and right-wing apologists, whether western or Indian, are reluctant to accept. The fact that the problem has been caused by settler colonialism and occupation is duly ignored, indicating an unwillingness to recognise the violent dispossession of the Palestinians out of their homeland in 1948 through expulsion and ethnic cleansing and the continuation of that violence through the last few decades. Hamas's attack has served as an excuse for Israel to do what it wants with strong American support which has sought to control West Asia through Israel – their indispensable outpost in the Muslim world.

Ties with Israel

In the recent past, however, India tempered any expression of support for Israel with expressions of concern for the Palestinians' plight. Not any more. The shift reflects India's growing technological, defence and commercial ties to Israel. Cooperation between the two countries has been deepening ever since Israel provided India with military help during the Kargil war against Pakistan in 1999. The imbrication of its defence and intelligence networks with those in India serves as an important conduit for deepening India's political alignment with the U.S., accelerating it to the point of a strategic relationship.

The massive violence that Israel has inflicted on Palestine is shocking. If we are not outraged by Israel's lack of humanity, its illegal occupation and annexation and ethnic cleansing in Palestine, even as we watch it being live-streamed on television and on social media, then we are also complicit in it. It is as if the moral architecture of liberalism and human rights has ceased to exist.

Ensuring a proper social safety net for the gig worker

Kingshuk Sarkar

a faculty member at the Goa Institute of Management and former labour administrator with the Government of West Bengal

The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is drafting a national law to incorporate gig workers into social security schemes, offering benefits such as health insurance and retirement savings. The government is expected to require aggregators to contribute 1%-2% of their revenue to establish a social security fund, which would provide health insurance and other benefits. The government is also revising the definitions of gig and migrant workers to make them more inclusive and reflective of current employment realities.

The proposed legislation will establish a welfare board model, creating a fund for the social security of gig workers. It mandates the registration of all gig workers and requires aggregators to give a 14-day notice, with valid reasons before termination, while ensuring transparency in automated systems. Dispute resolution mechanisms will also be introduced to protect gig workers' rights.

The Labour Minister also pointed out that aggregator companies that employ gig and platform workers will be asked to take the lead in registering their workers on the portal. Workers registered on the Labour Ministry's e-Shram portal are eligible for life and accidental insurance, along with other benefits.

Labour codes

In this context, it can be mentioned that India formulated four new labour codes in 2019 and 2020. These codes essentially simplified and rationalised existing labour laws and enabled 29 central labour laws to be merged in four broad codes: namely, wage, social security, industrial relation and occupational safety health working conditions. The only code where gig and platform workers found mention is the Social Security Code 2020.

In this code, gig and platform workers are perceived as a subset of informal sector workers. Accordingly, the said code provided for the formulation of social security schemes for gig and platform workers by the central government. Further, like informal workers, gig workers ought to register themselves under the e-Shram portal through self-declaration.

Defining 'employment relation' in gig work is the key

Worker definition

The issue arises from the definition of gig workers in the Social Security Code 2020, which places them outside the traditional employer-employee relationship. This is problematic since many gig employers, as in some of the well-known companies, operate as formal entities within the formal sector. The exclusion of gig workers from the traditional employment framework is the crux of the problem.

It is a deliberate ploy on the part of the "aggregator" to demystify employment relations in gig and platform economies such that the application of existing labour laws get pre-empted. In a gig economy, employment relations remain ambiguous and workers are categorised as independent workers or contractors.

Such camouflaging of employment relations leads to the misconception that the gig worker is an independent worker. The Social Security Code 2020 accepts this deception and includes gig workers as part of the informal sector. The Code does not decipher the real employment relation in the gig and employment economy.

Also, there is a huge difference in terms of entitlement between institutional social security and social security schemes. For example, formal workers get 26 weeks of paid leave along with job security for the entire period of maternity under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. This is part of institutional social security coverage.

Under social security schemes, for maternity benefits, there is a cash benefit such as ₹5,000-₹10,000 given to registered informal workers. The gap between an institutional social security and a social security scheme in terms of entitlement is very clearly evident. The Social Security Code 2020 sets to provide gig workers with only certain social security schemes but not institutional social security.

Similarly, other forms of institutional protection such as minimum wage protection are missing for gig workers. Occupational safety and health regulations do not apply for gig workers. Gig workers are not included under the Industrial Relations Code 2020 and are not covered under the dispute resolution mechanism provided thereunder.

The cornerstone of protection under labour laws is the explicit employment relation. This is what is not defined for gig work in the Indian context. Pieces of legislation introduced in recent times in States such as Rajasthan and Karnataka also suffer from this particular lacunae.

The core issue

If the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment is serious about protecting the interests of an ever increasing number of gig workers in the country, it should define the employment relation in gig and platform in an explicit manner and remove the veil created by so-called "aggregators". Recognising "aggregators" as employer and reclaiming explicit employment relation in gig work is the key factor.

An important precedent here is the ruling by the U.K. Supreme Court on the Uber case in 2021 – Uber was deemed to be an employer, Uber drivers as "workers" and Uber asked to honour the prevailing labour laws of the land.

Once the employment relationship is clearly defined, gig workers can be included under the proposed four labour codes, eliminating the need for separate legislation. The welfare board model, as suggested by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has shown limited effectiveness in the past, particularly with construction workers, who were also classified as informal despite working for formal employers. Clarifying the employment relationship in gig work would further promote the formalisation of workers in this sector.

Moreover, the entire labour code was designed for simplification and rationalisation. Introducing separate laws for specific workforce segments undermines this goal. The key is to recognise the employment relationship in gig work. Once this is addressed, the rest will follow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Weakening the RTI

It is astounding that there is a huge and growing backlog of appeals and complaints pending in information commissions in India ('Opinion' page, "Scuttling people's right to information", October 14). The bad attitude and apathy towards the right to information seems deliberate and it may be a matter of time before the Act becomes a dead letter.

H. Syed Othuman,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

The RTI Act is a formal way to facilitate the flow of vital information to the public. There was sanctity. Unfortunately, the Act has been weakened. The common man who does not have any political affiliation will assert that the Congress was definitely more transparent and open to public ideas than the BJP.

T.M. Uday Shankar,
Hyderabad

A victim

The way the system treated a man on a wheelchair is shameful ("Modi govt. responsible for Saibaba death: Left parties", October 14). G.N. Saibaba's long detention behind harsh prison walls hastened his end. The system itself is on a wheelchair.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Our insensitive criminal justice system and cruel ways of state apparatuses are squarely responsible for the passing of G.N. Saibaba. Even the judiciary added to this with some of its flip-flops. G.N. Saibaba's passing evokes the memory of Father Stan Swamy, who too was a victim of the vengeful attitude of the state towards dissenters. A serious and sustained campaign by the political Opposition should lead to the repair of a deeply flawed criminal justice system.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

The passing of scholar and outstanding teacher G.N. Saibaba shocks both his students and admirers. But did he waste precious years in propagating and supporting violence to establish an egalitarian society in India? Perhaps he could have researched Gandhism too.

S. Nagarajan Iyer,
Coimbatore

Ratan N. Tata

There is a pall of gloom with business magnate and philanthropist Ratan Naval Tata shedding his mortal coils. I wish to highlight the simplicity of those who occupied the high chair in many of the Tata enterprises. I reproduce a letter, dated September 12, 1986, from the indefatigable J.R.D. Tata addressed to this nonagenarian pen-pusher: "Dear Mr. Natarajan, I thank you for your letter of August 14 which reached me, a few days ago. I agree with you, that my usage of the words, 'I personally met Jayaprakash' was wrong, but only from the point of view of a purist, I don't agree that it was grammatically wrong. It is one of the many figures of speech in the English language which are common usage. After all, if William Shakespeare can use a tautological expression, 'This was the most unkindest cut of all', a mere J.R.D. Tata, can, I think, be excused for having claimed to have 'personally met someone'. With kind regards, Signed – J.R.D. Tata."

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

A tennis king

That Rafael Nadal had such a long and prolific career is an achievement in itself. There were many who predicted that his overtly physical style that demanded so much of his body would result in a relatively short career. But the Spaniard could prove them wrong.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

A blueprint for safeguarding children

Bhuwan Ribhu

Founder of Just Rights for Children Alliance and petitioner in the Supreme Court judgment on CSEAM

The historic judgment against the online sexual abuse of children, pronounced by the Supreme Court of India in a petition filed by the Just Rights for Children Alliance, will have a long lasting and global impact on society, crime, and child rights.

In January 2024, the Madras High Court had ruled that "merely" downloading or watching child pornography is not a crime, and quashed a case against a 28-year-old man. How can someone who searches for and watches the rape of a child, thereby creating a demand for child rape, walk free? This ruling not only defeated the spirit of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, but also risked normalising the exploitation of children.

On September 23, the Supreme Court corrected this grave oversight. It was not only just in expanding the understanding and scope of the crime by making downloading and storage of such material an offence, but also mandated a comprehensive framework to combat Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) and placed strict responsibilities on social media intermediaries to comply with Indian law. By shifting the language from child porn to CSEAM, the ruling reframes the issue as a serious crime, rather than an adult indulgence. It further establishes that individuals who search for or download such material create a demand-supply chain that fuels the rape and exploitation of children.

The perpetuity of this crime is alarming, as these images persist online, subjecting children and families to continuous re-victimisation long after the abuse. Even more troubling is that many children are unaware that they have been victimised, as their images are circulated in secrecy.

Measures required

While this mandate is a significant victory, it is just the beginning. To fully realise its impact, the government must implement a comprehensive set of measures to ensure the safety and rehabilitation of children. Current approaches largely focus on punishing those in possession of CSEAM, while the child victims behind these images often remain without support. A globally coordinated, preventive, and protective framework is urgently needed – one that not only targets offenders, but also addresses the ecosystem and the evolving nature of child exploitation.

First, cybercrime should be explicitly defined in Indian laws and CSEAM should be brought within its ambit as an economic and organised crime. Emerging crimes, such as enticement through electronic or digital means, and the resulting trafficking for both forced labour and sexual exploitation need to be explicitly outlawed. The rise of AI-generated child sexual abuse material makes the situation worse as it blurs the line between real and synthetic images, making it difficult for authorities to deliver justice. Legal amendments are required to treat the creation of CSEAM, including AI-generated deep fakes, as equivalent to real child abuse. Without swift action, AI-driven exploitation will pose an even greater threat to children.

Second, social media platforms must be held accountable for reporting CSEAM in real-time to law enforcement. The judgment has mandated that intermediaries report such content to local police and authorities.

Third, India should establish an institutional framework in the form of a forensic lab equipped with cutting-edge technology to respond to the increase in reporting of CSEAM by intermediaries and social media companies. Currently, international agencies, such as Interpol, flag Indian IP addresses to the National Crime Records Bureau, which then passes this information to state authorities. A domestic lab would reduce response time by allowing India to flag suspicious activity locally and share real-time alerts within Indian and foreign authorities.

Fourth, details of individuals prosecuted for searching or downloading CSEAM should be entered into the National Database on Sexual Offenders and barred from employment in sectors involving children.

A border-less response

Most importantly, a border-less crime requires a border-less response. The United Nations Summit of the Future 2024 missed a critical opportunity to address emerging crimes against children. CSEAM is a multibillion-dollar global industry, accelerated by technological advancements. The world must unite to end this crime. To combat CSEAM effectively, we need a legally binding international convention.

By streamlining cooperation between law enforcement, governments, and stakeholders, we can enable targeted interventions to dismantle these networks and protect vulnerable children. Establishing an International Database of Sex Offenders could be a critical step in this direction. Financial institutions also play a crucial role in tracking and disrupting the money trails sustaining these networks. Without coordinated global action and financial accountability, dismantling these systems will remain elusive. Therefore, an international convention binding state and non-state actors is imperative to ensure coordinated response against the economics of this crime, and for identification of perpetrators, their networks, and for rehabilitation of child victims.

This is a watershed moment, offering a blueprint for how nations can take bold and decisive action to safeguard children. When fully implemented, it has the potential to not only transform India's approach but also set a powerful global precedent in the fight against child exploitation.

A recent Supreme Court ruling reframes the watching and downloading of child porn as a serious crime, rather than an adult indulgence

A strike, and Tamil Nadu's challenge

The State government cannot afford to neglect the interests of workers

STATE OF PLAY

Sanjay Vijayakumar
sanjay.v@thehindu.co.in

The ongoing workers' strike at the manufacturing facility of Samsung, the South Korean electronics giant, in Sriperumbudur near Chennai, appears to have put the Chief Minister M.K. Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government in a spot.

The workers have been on strike since September 9, demanding higher wages and union recognition. The demand for recognition of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU)-affiliated Samsung India Workers' Union (SIWU) has been the key friction point between the striking workers and the company's management. CITU is affiliated to the Communist Party of India (Marxist), a DMK ally.

Last month, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya wrote to Mr. Stalin, urging him to bring a "swift resolution" to the strike at Samsung. Mr. Stalin assigned Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Minister T.M. Anbarasan, and Labour Minister C.V. Ganesan to address the issue. In the presence of the ministers, several long meetings were held between the management and workers, and a "settlement" was reached between the company and the workmen committee on October 7.

However, CITU rejected the settlement proposal and said that the strike would continue until SIWU is recognised. The police arrested some of the protesting workers and dispersed the others. This move evoked strong criticism from the Opposition parties, such as the All India Anna Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam, Amma Makkal Munnettra Kazagam, Pattali Makkal Katchi, and Naam Tamilar Katchi. Even the DMK's allies – the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, the CPI(M), and Tamizhaga Vazhvurimai Katchi – have backed the workers. Interestingly, some leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Tamil Nadu have spoken against the CITU protest.

Industry bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry Tamil Nadu have said it is vital to reach a swift resolution to maintain the State's industrial momentum and attract investors. The DMK-affiliated Labour Progressive Federation has asked CITU not to blow the issue out of proportion.

Mr. Rajaa and Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu spoke to the media and argued that the issue of union recognition is sub judice and that the State government would take a decision based on the verdict of the Madras High Court. Mr. Rajaa said the management was also ready to fulfil the other demands of the workers, including high-quality food, standard locks, and air-conditioning of all the 108 buses. But they were unsuccessful in convincing the protesters to return to work.

Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin told reporters that Samsung is a multinational company and has refused to recognise a politically backed union. All other demands of the workers have been fulfilled, he pointed out.

The protest has come at a time when the DMK government is projecting Tamil Nadu as a preferred investment destination. The government is said to have attracted investments amounting to ₹10 lakh crore and generating 31 lakh jobs in three years. The protest, in fact, began when Mr. Stalin was in midst of a visit to the U.S. visit to woo investment. He signed investment pacts to the tune of ₹7,600 crore with various companies during his visit. Ford agreed to resume production, nearly three years after it ceased vehicle production in India, in Tamil Nadu, which was seen as a major win for the DMK government. Tamil Nadu is India's largest exporter of electronic goods.

States are competing for investments. India is trying to take advantage of 'China Plus One', a strategy where businesses are avoiding investing only in China and are seeking to diversify investments and supply chains to other countries. As Indian States are also facing the challenge of youth unemployment, they are trying to attract investments to generate jobs.

While attracting investments with the pitch that Tamil Nadu offers a peaceful industrial environment, the State government cannot afford to neglect the interests of workers. The government of the most industrialised State in the country, as per the Reserve Bank of India, faces a real challenge in balancing the demand of the workers to form a union and the need for industrial development.

Failing U.K. universities rely on Indian student fees to cut deficit

As there is a cap on fees for U.K. students, the fees of foreign students, especially Indians, are increasingly helping universities bridge the gap

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Last academic year, about one third of the universities in the U.K. ran deficits. A major reason behind the financial crisis is that there is a fee cap for local students, which has barely increased in the last decade. Thus, the colleges are forced to increasingly rely on fees paid by foreign students, which have no cap.

Students from India form the largest share of such foreigners. The fees they pay helps subsidise the education of the local students in the U.K. This arrangement is acceptable as long as it is mutually beneficial for foreign students, that is, if foreign students secure well-paying jobs in the U.K. and are able to repay their loans. However, data show that many Indians are getting admission in lower-ranked universities. Last year, the then U.K. Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, declared a crackdown on "low-quality" courses that "failed to deliver good outcomes" and limited student intake. Data show the effect of such courses on Indian students: the visas of a significant share of the students expire after they finish their course, which forces them to exit the U.K. instead of landing a job.

Chart 1 shows the share of universities in the U.K. that recorded a deficit over the years. In 2021-22, as many as 60% of the universities were in deficit. This came down to 33% in 2022-23, which was still almost double of what it was in 2015-16. Persistent deficit indicates that the universities are not generating funds to invest and innovate.

Chart 2 shows the share of foreign students (non-U.K., non European Union) in the total enrolment and their share in the total fees collected (in %). Both the share of foreign students and their share in total fees have steadily gone up over the years, pointing to an increasing reliance on them. By 2022-23, 23.7% of the students were foreigners, while their share in fees was about 53%. Notably, while the share of foreign students increased by about 10% points between 2016-17 and 2022-23 (from about 14% to 24%), their share in fees increased by over 16% points (from about 37% to 53%). This shows that the burden on foreign students has increased further.

Chart 3 shows the annual inflow of new students, region/country-wise. With over 1.25 lakh entrants in 2022-23, the number of Indian students surpassed the number of students from China for the first time in at least two decades to constitute the highest share in the country. This means that the disproportionate financial burden on foreign students is borne mostly by Indians.

Chart 4 shows the university-wise number of Indian students enrolled in 2022-23. The bigger and darker the circle, the higher the number of Indians. The circles on the right are better ranked on The Guardian University Guide's 2024 rankings. Clearly, the number of Indians who joined universities in the bottom half of the rankings (49%) is higher than those who joined universities in the top half (41%). The rest 10% of Indians joined universities that were not ranked. Only 4% of Indians joined the universities in the top 10 ranks.

Chart 5 shows the immigration status of Indian students, five years after they entered the U.K. on the "study route". Nearly 70% of the Indian students who arrived in 2018 found that their visas had expired five years later; only 24% got work visas and a few others stayed back to study further. The share of students with expired visas was even higher at over 80% in the years before. With the option of getting a visa for an 'indefinite leave to remain' (right to live, work and study in the U.K. for as long as they like) also becoming scarce, the options for Indian students appear bleak.

Funding mediocrity from outside

The data are sourced from the U.K.'s Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Migrant Journey Report 2023 and The Guardian University Guide 2024

Chart 1: The chart shows the share of universities in the U.K. that recorded a deficit over the years (in %)

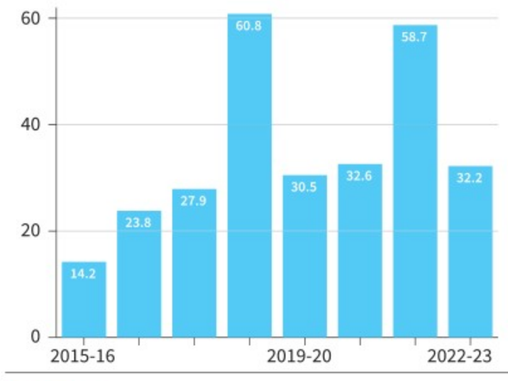


Chart 3: The chart shows the annual inflow of new students, region/country-wise

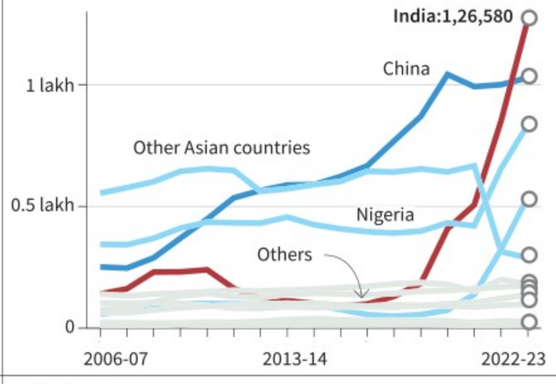


Chart 2: Share of foreign students (non-U.K., non EU) in the total enrolment and their share in the total fees (in %)

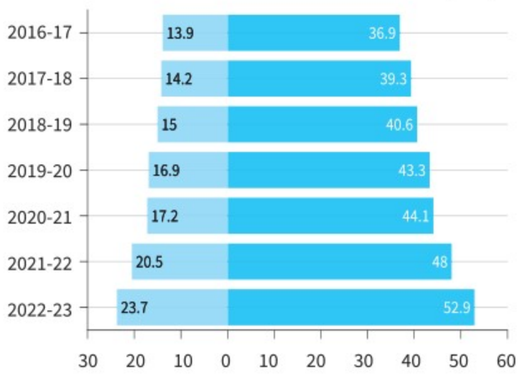


Chart 5: The immigration status of Indian students five years after they entered the U.K. on the "study route" (in %)

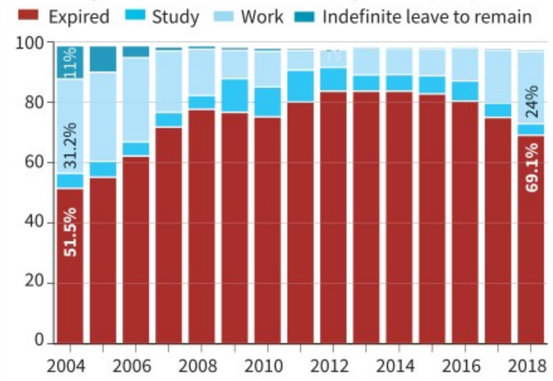
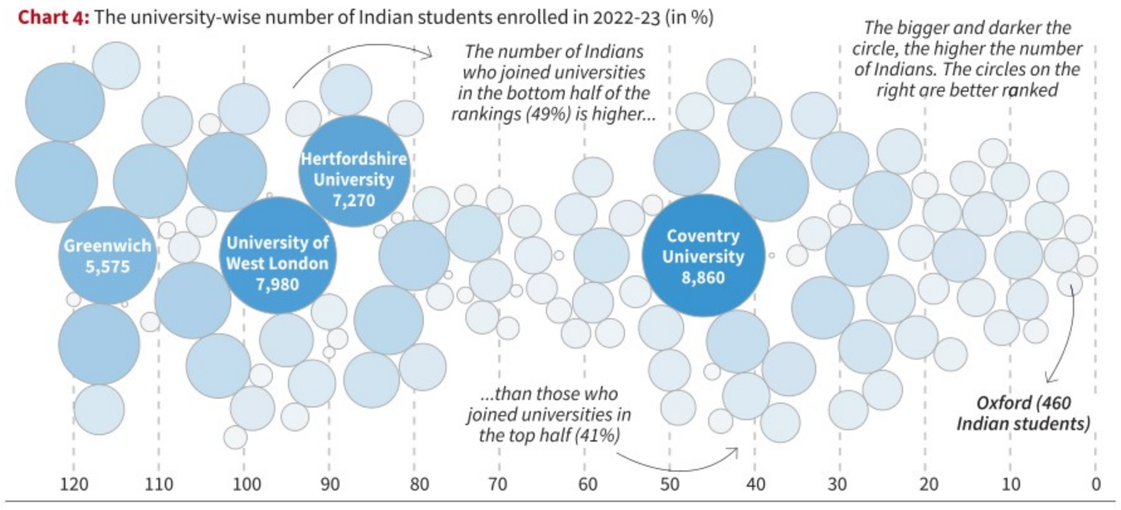


Chart 4: The university-wise number of Indian students enrolled in 2022-23 (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 15, 1974

Origin of monsoon in Tibet

New Delhi, Oct. 14: A recent Leningrad report locating the origin of monsoon in Tibet has not come as a surprise to Indian meteorologists, one of whom had propounded this theory as early as 1958.

The theory was propounded by Dr. P. Koteswaram, Director-General of Observatories, at a symposium as "monsoons of the world" 16 years ago.

He had stated that the heating of the Tibetan plateau was an important factor in initiating and maintaining the monsoon circulation.

A report from Leningard on Oct. 12 had quoted Soviet scientists as having concluded that the monsoon originated over the Tibetan mountains and not over the ocean. The scientists reached this conclusion after a study of data collected during the Monsoon Expedition (Monex) organised by Indian and Soviet scientists last year.

Until the Monex, the general belief had been that the monsoon was caused by moist currents over the southern part of the Indian Ocean, which after crossing the Equator, approached the Indian peninsula as the south-west monsoon between June and September. The impelling force triggering the monsoon circulation was believed to be the high pressure belt in the southern hemisphere which intensified and pushed air across the Equator in spurts known as monsoon pulses.

Dr. Koteswaram's 1958 hypothesis was that the Tibetan plateau which extends upto five km in height was heated directly by the sun's rays and contributed to the heating of the upper half of the atmosphere where weather is formed.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 15, 1924

The Madras Chamber of Commerce

The following extracts from the Minutes of Proceedings at the Monthly General Meeting of the Chamber held on Tuesday, the 30th September, 1924, have been sent to us for publication:

Madras year book

3.Read and recorded (1) letter from Messrs. Chakravarthi Co., Madras, dated the 2nd August, 1924, requesting the Chamber to address the Government in regard to the discontinuance of the publication entitled the Madras Year Book from 1925 or do it in such a way that it will not compete with their publication.

From Page One

India and Canada 'expel' diplomats

The announcement about the withdrawal of Indian diplomats from Canada was made soon after the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs summoned Mr. Wheeler and said the recent actions of the Justin Trudeau government had "endangered" the "safety" of the Indian diplomats there. Late on Monday evening, the MEA announced that six Canadian diplomats – Acting High Commissioner Stewart Ross Wheeler, Deputy High Commissioner Patrick Hebert, First Secretaries Marie Catherine Joly, Ian Ross David Trites, Adam James Chuipka, Paula Orjuela – had been expelled. "They have been asked to leave India by or before 11:59 PM on Saturday, October 19, 2024," said the MEA in its announcement.

"We have received a diplomatic communication from Canada yesterday suggesting that the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats are 'persons of interest' in a matter related to an investigation in that country. The Government of India strongly rejects these preposterous imputations and ascribes them to the political agenda of the Trudeau Government that is centred around vote bank politics," the MEA said.

The Canadian diplomatic team in Delhi was conveyed that India could take further steps in safeguarding its interests. "India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau Government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India," said the MEA.

The MEA came out in support of Mr. Verma, describing him as India's "senior most serving diplomat" with a career of 36 years.

Nijjar was found murdered by a group of unknown assailants on June 18, 2023. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced in the House of Commons that "agents of the Indian government" were behind the killing of Nijjar who worked in the Guru Nanak Gurdwara of Surrey, British Columbia in Canada. Bilateral ties took a hit and subsequently, India froze visa facilities for Canadian citizens and in October, 41 Canadian diplomats were withdrawn from Canada's missions in India.

Inflation at 9-month high as food prices rise

Rural India, however, faced relatively milder food inflation of 9.1% compared with a 9.6% rise faced by urban consumers. Prices of pulses rose 9.81%, retreating from a 10%-plus inflation pace for the first time in 16 months, even as price rise of cereals and eggs eased marginally to 6.8% and 6.3%, respectively. However, edible oils recorded a 2.5% uptick, breaking a 19-month streak of dipping prices, amid a global hardening of prices.

Beyond food, households saw a sharp uptick of 9% in prices of personal care and effects in September. Prices for this category rose 8.4% in July and eased a tad to 7.9% in August. Core inflation that excludes food and energy prices, also rose to a nine-month high of 3.8%, in line with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das' assertion that this element of price rise had bottomed out.

Rate cut

While the RBI changed its monetary policy stance to neutral last week, expectations of a rate cut may take a while to materialise, with the central bank projecting average inflation of 4.8% for the October-December quarter, before cooling to 4.2% in the first quarter of 2025.

"For a rate cut to be forthcoming in the December monetary policy review, either the consumer price inflation will need to flatten considerably below 5.0% in October or the GDP growth for Q2 FY2025 will need to significantly undershoot the MPC's expectations," reckoned ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

"It is likely that the increase in inflation rate for the month of September 2024 is due to high base effect and weather conditions," the NSO said.

Centre invites Manipur MLAs for meeting today

The meeting, being convened by Intelligence Bureau, is a first since the violence broke out; MLAs from Meitei, Kuki-Zo, Naga communities have been invited; no agenda has been shared with them

Vijaita Singh
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A woman holds a placard during a protest at Jantar Mantar on September 15 over the conflict in Manipur. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has invited MLAs from all three communities – Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and Naga – in Manipur for a meeting on Tuesday. This is the first time the government has called such a meeting.

The meeting is being convened by the Intelligence Bureau, a source said, and no formal agenda has been shared with the MLAs. This comes nearly a month after Home Minister Amit Shah said at a press conference on September 17 that resolving the situation in Manipur required dialogue between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities, and the Centre was in discussion with both groups.

On June 17, a similar assurance was given by the Home Minister, when he reviewed the security situation in Manipur, although in the absence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. The Ministry, in a statement, had said that Mr. Shah underscored the importance of coordinated approach to resolve the ongoing ethnic conflict, adding that the Ministry "will talk to both the groups, Meiteis and Kukis, so as to bridge the ethnic divide, at the earliest". However, no peace committees were formed, and no outreach took place since.

One of the Naga MLAs called to the meeting told *The Hindu*, "It is an important step towards resolving the crisis in Manipur. However, there has been no information on the agenda for the meeting. This will decide how the Naga community can help. The Naga community has been trying to facilitate dialogue but the efforts have not amounted to much so far."

Saitu MLA Haokholet Kipgen said, "As convener of the Kuki-Zo MLAs in Manipur, I can say that we are seeking a separate meeting with the MHA before the scheduled peace talks. The outcome of this meeting will determine whether we will attend the talks with the Meitei MLAs."

Another Meitei MLA said, "I received a call to join the meeting arranged by MHA in Delhi. We do not know what is there on the agenda. We are yet to know if the Kuki-Zo MLAs will be coming for the meeting."

MHA's peace committee

A 51-member peace committee constituted by the MHA on June 10, 2023, was rejected by both the communities.

Wilubou Newmai, a Naga from Manipur, who was part of the defunct committee, said, "This is one of the first peace meetings of its kind. People are suffering, especially those in relief camps. Both groups should think about that. The Union government should make a sincere attempt to address the issue before the gaps between the two communities are widened beyond repair."

Mr. Newmai said, "It will be good if a committee headed by a Union Minister is constituted. That will be acceptable to both the communities. Meetings with bureaucrats will not suffice, it requires political intervention."

Third accused in Baba Siddique's murder sent to police custody

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

One of the suspects in the murder of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique, Pravin Lonkar, was produced in the Esplanade court in Mumbai on Monday. The court sent him to police custody till October 21. He was arrested on Sunday. It was the third arrest in the case.

Former Maharashtra Minister Siddique, who represented the Bandra (West) seat three times in the State Assembly, was shot dead outside his office in Nirmal Nagar, Bandra, on October 12. The Mumbai Police had arrested two of the three suspected shooters, Gurmail Singh and Dharmaraj Kashyap, while the third shooter, Shivkumar Gautam, is on the run. The police suspect gangster Lawrence Bishnoi to be behind the murder.

Key accused on the run

On Sunday, the prime accused and Bishnoi gang member, Shubham Lonkar, claimed responsibility for the murder through a social media post.

According to the police, Mr. Shubham was the mastermind and had "recruited" the shooters. While Mr. Shubham is absconding, the police have arrested his brother Pravin Lonkar. They are also on the lookout for another suspect, Mohamed Zeeshan Akhtar.

In the social media post, Mr. Shubham had claimed that Siddique was killed because he was linked to wanted terrorist Dawood Ibrahim, and was close to actor Salman Khan, who allegedly killed two blackbucks in Rajasthan in 1998.

Seeking Mr. Pravin's custody, public prosecutor S.N. Vaidya said: "Pravin Lonkar, 28, has to be taken to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana for tracing his brother Shubham."

The police suspect that the weapons were provided to the shooters by Mr. Shubham, who had been booked in an Arms Act case earlier in Akola.

Defence lawyer Prajay Kotkar told the court that Mr. Pravin had no association with the crime and was being made a "scapegoat".

NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule questioned the "casual attitude" of the State government despite knowing the threats received by Siddique. "No one was safe in this State, not women and children, and now Ministers also," she said.

Indian probe team to travel to Washington over Pannun case: U.S.

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

As the diplomatic row between India and Canada escalated on Monday over the death of a pro-Khalistan figure and Canadian citizen in British Columbia last year, the U.S. State Department announced that an Indian investigation team would travel to Washington DC on Tuesday to investigate a plot to kill a U.S. citizen in New York.

The U.S. Department of Justice announced charges in November 2023 alleging that an Indian government employee directed a plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Khalistani separatist designated as a terrorist by the Indian government in 2020. Pannun heads Sikhs for Justice, a group that advocates for a separate homeland for Sikhs or Khalistan.

"The Enquiry Committee will be traveling to Washington, D.C. on October 15th, as part of their ongoing investigations to discuss the case, including information they have obtained, and to receive an update from U.S. authorities regarding the U.S. case that is proceeding," the Office of the Spokesperson at the U.S. State Department said.

An Indian citizen, Nikhil Gupta, was extradited to the U.S. from the Czech Republic in June. Federal prosecutors had alleged that Mr. Gupta hired a hitman to kill Pannun and paid him for the job. The Indian government had set up an inquiry into the allegations in November last year.

"Additionally, India has informed the United States they are continuing their efforts to investigate other linkages of the former government employee and will determine follow up steps, as necessary," the spokesperson's office said.

U.P. Police detain 30 over violence in Bahraich; Internet suspended

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Motorcycles set on fire by protesters in Bahraich on Monday, a day after violence broke out during an idol immersion procession. PTI

The Mahasi locality in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh remained on edge on Monday, a day after a person was killed during a Durga idol immersion procession.

Protesters torched several properties, including a two-wheeler showroom. The police resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas shells as protesters turned violent.

The administration deployed six Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) companies to control the situation and Internet services have temporarily been suspended.

Additional Director-General (ADG), Law and Order, Amitabh Yash, has been ordered to immediately rush to Bahraich, with top State authorities monitoring the situation.

Thirty people have been detained in connection with the violence that left one dead and several injured after two communities clashed.

The deceased, Ram Gopal Mishra, a native of Rehua Mansoor village, was shot for playing music during the procession. Four persons – Sudhakar Tiwari, 22; Ranjan, 31; Divyang Satyawan, 42; and Akhilesh Bajpai, 52 – were injured. District authorities suspended the Mahasi Police Outpost in-charge Shiv Kumar for negligence.

Senior Congress leader and former Uttar Pradesh Congress in-charge Priyanka Gandhi Vadra appealed for peace and demanded the strictest action against culprits while accusing the administration of inaction.

'Take strict action'

"The news of violence in Bahraich and the inaction of the administration are extremely sad and unfortunate. I appeal to the Chief Minister of the State and the administration to take immediate action. Strictest action should be taken against the culprits. My humble appeal to the public is that please do not take the law into your own hands and maintain peace," the Congress leader wrote on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the "conspiracy" to disturb peace and harmony in the State will not succeed. "Those who provide protection to the rioters are once again becoming active, but we have to be cautious and vigilant," he said.

"The coming of elections and the worsening of the communal atmosphere is not a coincidence. This is the knock of the by-elections. If the government makes real, solid arrangements instead of superficial law and order, everything will be fine, but this will happen only if the government wants it to," Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said.

India, Russia discuss training of sailors for polar navigation, development of joint projects

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

An MoU has been drafted between both countries for development of cooperation in cargo shipping in the NSR

The India-Russia working group on cooperation in the Northern Sea Route (NSR) held their first meeting last week and discussed targets for Indian-Russian cargo transit, possible training of Indian sailors for polar navigation and development of joint projects in Arctic shipbuilding, Rosatom state corporation of Russia said on Monday.

"The working group also drafted a memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation for the development of cooperation in cargo shipping in the waters of the NSR," Rosatom said in a statement. In 2018, the Russian government appointed Rosatom the infrastructure operator of the NSR.

"One of Rosatom's strategic goals is to make the NSR an effective shipping artery connecting Europe, Russia and the Asia-Pacific region. Ongoing is the preparation of a federal project to develop the Great Northern Sea Route – a transport corridor from St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad to Vladivostok," the statement said.

As India scaled up investments in Russia's far East, cooperation on NSR figured in the joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow in July. Both sides shared approaches on building a "new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors," including for the purpose of "implementing the idea of a greater Eurasian space."

In this context, the sides expressed readiness to actively work to expand logistics links with an emphasis on increasing the capacity of infrastructure.

Army to get choppers from private firms to serve remote posts

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind association with the private sector, the Army has entered into a contract with civil aviation service providers for helicopter support to the Army posts along the Northern and Western borders that are cut off during the winter.

Under this, civil aviation helicopters would be employed instead of Army's own aviation or Air Force assets. This will not only reduce costs but also preserve the service life of military helicopters for more critical roles in combat or other emergency scenarios, officials said.

"The contract, executed for a period of one year, will ensure that 16 remote posts in Jammu region are sustained throughout the year, while another 28 posts in Kashmir and Ladakh will benefit from this support for 150 days next year," an official said.

44 posts to be covered

The helicopters, provided under the contract, will operate from seven mounting bases in Ladakh, two in Kashmir, and one in the Jammu region, covering a total of 44 posts.

This is not only a logistical triumph but also an indication that civil aviation assets are now capable of operating in challenging forward areas, previously the exclusive domain of military aircraft, officials said.

Maharashtra gives 124 acres for Dharavi project; scraps toll on LMVs in Mumbai

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Monday cleared a proposal to hand over 124.3 acres of the Deonar dumping yard land for the rehabilitation of those affected by the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

The Cabinet also decided to scrap the toll on light motor vehicles (LMVs) at all the five entry and exit points to Mumbai. These were among the 19 decisions taken at a meeting.

"The decision to waive road tax will be implemented from midnight of October 15," an official said.

"Light vehicles, school buses and ST buses will be exempted from road tax. It will be implemented on Sion Panvel Highway at Vashi, Lal Bahadur Shastri Road at Mulund, Eastern Expressway at Mulund near Airoli Bridge, Western Expressway at the toll booth at Dahisar," the official added.

A committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary has been constituted for the compensation to be paid to the State Road Development Corporation due to the tax exemption, the official said.

The Cabinet approved the allotment of land parcel to the Dharavi project for the construction of free, affordable houses on rent to eligible, ineligible residents of Dharavi. The land parcel will be given at the possession rate of 25% of the prevalent market rate. Four days ago, the Maharashtra government had allotted 140 acres of land at Madh for the Dharavi project. Before that, it had allotted 255 acres of salt pan land to it.

As per the government decision, the land allotment will be subject to conditions. "In order to determine the area freely for allotment, the Collector of Mumbai Suburban should measure the said land/income at government expense and determine the area and pass the land approval order by collecting the possession amount of that area," said a government order on Monday.

Congress leadership should resign over land dealings: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sudhanshu Trivedi

The Bharatiya Janata Party said on Monday that the entire top brass of the Congress should resign on moral grounds as "the party was involved in corruption related to land transactions".

At a press conference, BJP national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of involvement in land allotments. "They are devising ways to return land to avoid being humiliated by the investigation process," he said.

Mr. Trivedi said now that the ground seemed to be slipping from under Mr. Kharge, he had decided to return the allotted land after allegations were made against a trust run by his family, and earlier the Karnataka Chief Minister had also done the same. The BJP leader said if similar allegations were levelled against any other party or BJP leader, the Congress and its allies would have caused a ruckus.

"BJP MP Lahar Singh Siroya has raised this issue, and the CAG said in its report in 2017 that "the committee should be asked to fix responsibility for violation of court orders and suggest appropriate action against guilty officials." If Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Kharge are returning the land today, it is not because of their conscience awakening, but it is a way to avoid the humiliation of court action," he said.

Mr. Trivedi said, "When the investigation process started after the approval of the courts, the CAG report, and the Governor of the State, and when the Congress leaders have accepted that the land was allotted wrongly, then the BJP wants to tell Mr. Kharge, Chief Minister of the Congress-ruled State, Rahul Gandhi, and Sonia Gandhi that just returning the land will not work. If they have returned the land, then they should also resign on moral grounds."

L-G invites Omar to take oath as J&K CM tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday invited Chief Minister-designate Omar Abdullah to form the next government in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

"I am pleased to invite you to form and lead the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. As separately settled, I shall administer Oath of Office and Secrecy to you, and to those recommended by you for induction as members of your Council of Ministers, at SKICC, Srinagar on 16 October, 2024 at 11:30 a.m.," a letter from the L-G read.

The L-G wished Mr. Abdullah "a highly productive tenure and success in your endeavours in the best interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir". Mr. Sinha said he had received a letter from National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on October 11, "informing that Mr. Omar has been unanimously elected as Leader of the Legislature Party."

Mr. Omar confirmed he received the communication from the Principal Secretary to the L-G, "inviting him to form the next government in J&K".

Jaishankar to visit Pak. today for SCO meeting

He is the first External Affairs Minister to visit the neighbouring country since 2015; Islamabad put under lockdown following terror attacks last week and over fears of protests by Imran Khan's party

Suhasini Haidar
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistani capital will be in complete lockdown as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and other leaders of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) arrive here on Tuesday to attend the Heads of Government meeting.

A 300-strong delegation led by Chinese Premier Li Qiang arrived in Islamabad on Monday to conduct bilateral meetings, while Mr. Jaishankar is expected to arrive on Tuesday evening by a special plane, in time for a dinner hosted by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. While Mr. Jaishankar visited Pakistan as Foreign Secretary in 2015, this is his first visit as External Affairs Minister, and the first such visit to Pakistan in nine years.

On Wednesday, Mr. Jaishankar will attend the HoG meet to be held at the Jinnah Convention Centre, which will be hosted by Mr. Sharif, to be followed by a lunch also hosted by the Pakistani Prime Minister, giving the leaders a number of occasions to hold bilateral conversations and pull-asides should they need to.

Pakistan Army personnel keep vigil ahead of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Islamabad on Monday. AFP

Both External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar have downplayed expectations of talks between them, stressing that this is a "multilateral" event. However, it is significant that Mr. Jaishankar has decided to come at all, given that India has attended other SCO events in Pakistan via videoconferencing.

Last month, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal attended the SCO Trade Minister's meeting virtually. As India and Canada locked horns over the Nijjar case on Monday, expelling six diplomats each, speculation rose that Mr. Jaishankar may put off his visit. However, when asked by journalists in Delhi, he said that the Pakistan visit was "still 24 hours away" indicating that there had been no change in his plans. Mr. Jaishankar is expected to fly back to Delhi on Wednesday after the conference and signing of SCO documents.

Mr. Li, who is in Pakistan on a state visit, was accorded a 21-gun salute on his arrival, after which he and Mr. Sharif held talks and virtually inaugurated the new Gwadar airport, gifted to Pakistan by China on Monday.

Apart from high-security levels accorded to the visitors, which include the Prime Ministers of Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Belarus as well as the Iranian First Vice-President, parts of Islamabad's "Blue" and all of its "Red" Zones have been sealed off to the public for the SCO meet, said officials, given fears of protests by the Opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led by jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

In addition, terror attacks on Chinese engineers last week and the shooting of 21 miners in Balochistan have fuelled worries about the conference. More than 9,000 security personnel have been deployed, and armed police and paramilitary officials could be seen dotting all main streets and venues in the Pakistani capital.

At hotels where journalist delegations, including the Indian delegation, are staying, armed guards have been deployed on every floor.

Haryana BJP MLAs to meet tomorrow to pick leader

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the new BJP government's swearing-in on October 17, the BJP Legislature Party will hold a meeting on October 16, Haryana's caretaker Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, who have been appointed by the BJP as central observers for Haryana, will participate in the meeting. The legislators are expected to elect their leader at the meeting, following which the BJP will stake claim to form the government in Haryana.

Mr. Saini, who was appointed Chief Minister by replacing Manohar Lal earlier this year, will in all probability head the government again. He is expected to be elected the Legislature Party leader.

"On October 16, our central observers, Home and Cooperation Minister honourable Amit Shah*ji* and CM Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav*ji* will hold a meeting with our newly elected MLAs," Mr. Saini told journalists, after offering prayers at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam.

Opposition walks out of meeting on Waqf Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

BJP leader levels allegations on alleged misuse of Waqf land by Congress leaders in Karnataka

The Opposition MPs boycotted a meeting of the Parliamentary committee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill after the Chairperson reportedly did not heed their protests against a presentation made by a witness who levelled allegations against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other party leaders from Karnataka.

They also objected to the participation of Sanatan Sanstha, a registered charitable trust. Persons linked to the organisation have been investigated for the murders of academic M.M. Kalburgi, rationalist Narendra Dabholkar, CPI leader Govind Pansare, and journalist Gauri Lankesh.

In the post-lunch meeting of the committee, the Opposition raised objections to the presentation made by Anwar Manippady, former Chairman of Karnataka State Minorities Commission.

Mr. Manippady, according to sources, was presenting a 2012 report prepared by the commission on alleged misuse of Waqf properties by the Congress leaders in the State. The report also named Mr. Kharge.

"We raised objections right at the time he introduced himself as former vice-president and spokesperson of BJP. It was clear that his presentation had nothing to do with the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, that we are discussing. It was a politically motivated presentation," a senior Opposition leader said.

The Opposition leader, according to sources, also pointed out that the rules prohibit making any defamatory remarks against any person in constitutional position. Mr. Kharge, as Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, occupies a constitutional position.

'Chairman did nothing'

Chairperson and BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, according to sources, ignored the protests and asked Mr. Manippady to continue.

At this point, the Opposition MPs left their seats to draw the Chairperson's attention and to block the presentation, sources said. This continued for the next several minutes, and as the presentation continued uninterrupted, the members staged a walkout.

Lok Sabha MPs from Congress Gaurav Gogoi and Imran Masood, A. Raja of the DMK, Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM's Asaduddin Owaisi, Samajwadi Party's Mohibbullah, and Sanjay Singh of the Aam Aadmi Party, stormed out of the meeting.

"We will be lodging a strong protest with the Lok Sabha Speaker against the conduct of the Chairperson. The Parliamentary committees are to work in a bipartisan manner and not to be utilised as a political battleground," another Opposition member said.

Abhay Vartak, a spokesperson of the organisation who was present for the meeting, refused to comment on objections raised by the Opposition.

Congress flags removal of warning from packets of iron-fortified rice

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday, citing a news report, expressed concern about the Narendra Modi-led Union government removing health warnings from packets of iron-fortified rice given through the public distribution system (PDS) network. In a post on X, Pawan Khera, who heads the media and publicity wing, called the move a "dangerous turn", pointing to the risks faced by people with genetic conditions such as thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia.

"Shockingly, they've now removed the health warnings from the rice. This means people won't even know that what they're consuming could harm or even kill them," Mr. Khera said.

He said the decision to supply iron-fortified rice without proper warnings or alternatives is not just reckless but life-threatening as well.

Rahul briefed on scenario for Maharashtra polls as Congress looks for boost

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Rahul Gandhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a closed-door internal strategy meeting with the top five leaders of the Maharashtra Congress on Monday.

The State leaders comprised Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee president Nana Patole, former Union Minister Prithviraj Chavan, Congress Legislature Party leader Balasaheb Thorat, Mumbai Regional Congress Committee president Varsha Gaikwad, and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Vijay Waddettiwar.

The State leaders discussed the Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha election, issues critical to Maharashtra, status of seat-sharing talks with allies, and areas of focus for the upcoming Assembly election.

There was no specific discussion about alliance partners or the Chief Ministerial face. Though the Haryana defeat was not talked about, the shadow of the party's performance loomed large over the core meeting, in which only eight persons were present. Apart from the five Maharashtra leaders and Mr. Gandhi, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and general secretary K. C. Venugopal took part in the meeting. The extended part of the meeting saw other party office-bearers join in.

Region-wise rundown

The Maharashtra Congress leaders briefed Mr. Gandhi about the region-wise performance of the party in the Lok Sabha election. The meeting also took stock of the current narrative in the State. A major point of discussion was the impact of the *Mahayuti* government's flagship scheme Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana in which eligible women receive ₹1,500 from the State each month.

The leaders who are part of the seat-sharing committees gave the central leadership an update about the status of seat-sharing talks. There are two separate committees in place – one for Mumbai and another for the rest of Maharashtra. The meeting dwelt solely on the internal strategy of the party.

State leaders were told that they could not be complacent despite the party's good performance in the Lok Sabha polls. Though there was no reference to the Haryana results, these instructions are linked to the party's below par performance there. Maharashtra is the second largest State with 288 Assembly seats. The upcoming election is significant for the party to establish its hold again in the region.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.I
e -TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TCN No.CE/HWDI/ACCTS-04/24/332, dtd. 08.10.2024
Name of the work : "Providing connecting Road leading from Gate No.3 to Gate No.4 alongside the PICT Railway Track inside Harbour area". Put to tender Value : Rs.7,92,84,501.26 plus GST as applicable. Last Date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 29.10.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website : https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Executive Engineer,
Harbour Works Division No.I, PPA
PPA/PR/43/2024-2025, Dt.10/10/2024

JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in Phone: 0413-2296022
No. JPADMN-1REC07(2)/4/2024 Dated: 15.10.2024
The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites application from eligible persons for engagement of **Legal Consultant** (on contract basis).
The format of the application, other details regarding remuneration, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the above said post are available in the JIPMER website **"www.jipmer.edu.in".**
The last date for receipt of filled-in application is **04.11.2024 till 4.30 P.M.**
DIRECTOR

कृषि विश्वविद्यालय, कोटा
AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, KOTA
Advt. No. F.2 ( )/ AUK/ Teaching/ 2024/01 Dated : 14.10.2024
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
In continuation to the Advt notice. No. F.2 ( )/ AUK/ Teaching/ 2024/01; Dated 10.10.2024 of this University, it is notified that the detailed Advertisement, score cards, etc. are available on University website www.aukota.org and recruitment portal https://aukrecruitment2024.com with effect from 14.10.2024 (henceforth referred as Advertisement Date). The other details particularly with respect to last date of filling the online application form will remain the same.
Raj.samwad/C/24/6524 REGISTRAR

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
No. B-IV-H(H&D)-66/22 Letter No.- 39238 Dt. 7th October, 2024
Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 10 / 2024-25

1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the Building works (STP, ETP) on Turnkey basis (i.e. Design & execution of ETP & STP).		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Works (Establishment of STP & ETP)
3.	Nos. of work	:	01 No.
4.	Cost of Bid Document	:	₹.10,000/- (Each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Super Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.15.10.2024 to 05:30 P.M of dt.04.11.2024.
7.	Pre-bid meeting	:	Dt.23.10.2024 at 11.30 AM
8.	Last dt. Of Submission of hardcopy	:	Dt.08.11.2024 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 11.11.2024 at 11:30 AM
10.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha
B-405: OIPR-34117/11/0024/2425

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DN DHARIYAWAD
No. 734-738 Date: 07.10.2024
Notice Inviting Bid No. 12/2024-25
NIB Code: PWD2425A2034
Bids for Various Repair/Rehabilitation Work on Various Road are invited from interested bidders upto **09.10.2024, 09:00 AM to 18.10.2024, 06:00 PM** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **("http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov in)** of the state. The approximate value of procurement is Rs. 604.32 Lacs **UBN No.** PWD2425WSOB07459 PWD2425WSOB07460 PWD2425WSOB07461
(H.P. Meena)
DIPR/C/9759/2024 Executive Engineer, PWD Dn. Dhariyawad

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(A wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)
Tender no.: BESCOM/2024-25/SE0205
BESCOM invites Request For Proposal (RFP) for "Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build, Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level covering 10,180 IP sets in BESCOM jurisdiction, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM Scheme". The bid documents will be available o**n or after 18.10.2024 in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The prospective bidders have to register on the bidding portal. For any queries regarding portal, please contact KPPP helpdesk no.:080-46010000, 080-68948777 or email: support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/- General Manager (Ele.) DSM, BESCOM, Bengaluru.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MEDICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, UTTAR PRADESH
6th FLOOR, JAWAHAR BHAWAN, LUCKNOW
No. ME-3/2024/2340 Lucknow: Dated-14 October, 2024
The Time Schedule of Special Stray Vacancy Round of Online Counseling for UP NEET MDS-2024
In continuation of the time-table issued by Medical Counseling Committee (MCC). Government of India. New Delhi. for counseling of NEET MDS course, the time-table of Special Stray Vacancy round of online counseling for admission of state quota seats of MDS course in Government/Private Dental Colleges/Universities of the State is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days
1	Date of online registration	15th October 2024 (From 11:00 AM) To 18th October 2024 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 Days
2	Date of depositing registration fee and security Fee	15th October 2024 (From 11:00 AM) To 18th October 2024 (Till 2:00 PM)	04 Days
3	Date of declaration of merit List	18th October 2024	01 Days
4	Date of online choice filling	18th October 2024 (From 2:00 PM) To 21st October 2024 (Till 11:00 AM)	03 Days
5	Date of declaration of result of seat allotment	21st October 2024	01 Days
6	Date for downloading allotment letters and admission process	22nd October 2024 to 25th October 2024	04 Days

- To participate in the Special stray vacancy round, it is mandatory for all eligible candidates to get fresh registration done by paying Rs. 2000/- (Rs. Two Thousand only) as online registration fee separately.
- All information related to UP NEET MDS 2024 counseling will be uploaded on website **https://upneet.gov.in** and **www.dgme.up.gov.in**

(Director General)

INBRIEF

SC extends stay on defamation proceedings against Tharoor

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy on Monday extended the stay granted on September 9 on criminal defamation proceedings initiated against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for a reference to "scorpion sitting on a Shivling" made in connection with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The court allowed Additional Solicitor-General Raja Thakare, appearing for the Delhi Police, to file a response or a synopsis in the case in four weeks. The court also allowed the lawyer appearing for the complainant to file his *vakalatnama* before adjourning the case.

SC rejects petition for Sindhi channel on Doordarshan

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition seeking a direction to public broadcaster Prasar Bharati to launch a separate Sindhi language Doordarshan channel. The petition filed by an NGO, Sindhi Sangat, said the move would be in furtherance of Article 29 of the Constitution which required the state to protect and conserve the linguistic, cultural and religious rights of minority communities. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud however told senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for the NGO, that directing Prasar Bharati to start a 24-hour channel would not be the only way to conserve linguistic rights.

ED searches premises linked to JMM Minister, aides

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday searched several premises linked to Jharkhand Minister Mithilesh Thakur and his associates in a money laundering case related to alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a Centre-sponsored scheme.

Mr. Thakur, the Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister, termed it a "political raid". The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader said pressure was building up on him to join the BJP , and that the searches followed his refusal to join the party.

The ED searched premises at 20 locations in Ranchi and Chaibasa of West Singhbhum district, including those linked to IAS officer Manish Ranjan, Mr. Thakur's personal secretary Harendra Singh, brother Vinay Thakur, and a businessman named Vedant Khirwal. Talking to reporters in Ranchi, Mr. Thakur said, "They [BJP] have failed in people's court and now they are using the Central agencies against us. ED must maintain transparency, and should not become a puppet and follow others' instructions."

Talks between Bengal govt., doctors remain inconclusive

Chief Secretary says govt. has accepted seven of 10 demands, urges doctors to call of fast; doctors express disappointment over the discussions, seek time frame for implementation of all demands

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The meeting between the representatives of 12 doctors' associations and West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant remained inconclusive on Monday as the government said that it cannot put a time frame for the implementation of certain demands of protesting junior doctors.

After the meeting that lasted for more than two hours, the Chief Secretary said the State government had accepted seven of the 10 demands made by the junior doctors who are on a fast-unto-death.

With the junior doctors insisting on continuing their hunger strike till all their demands are met, the stalemate is likely to continue.

"Of 10 demands, seven have been met and work is already in progress. The intent of the government is positive. Our stand is positive as to why putting a timeline is not possible on certain demands of the doctors," Mr. Pant told journalists after the meeting. He also urged the protesting doctors to call off their strike. "We are concerned about their health and well-being. We appeal to them to withdraw their hunger strike," he said.

Junior doctors take part in march to the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday. DEBASISH BHADURI

'Vague answers'

The representatives of the doctors' bodies who participated in the meeting said they were disappointed with the talks. "We had come with a lot of optimism but were disappointed with the talks. The Chief Secretary only listened to us and gave vague answers," a representative of Medical Service Centre, a union of doctors, said.

The fast-unto-death by junior doctors entered the tenth day on Monday. The health condition of Tanya Panja, one of the doctors on hunger strike, deteriorated in the evening.

Dr. Panja, who has been on hunger strike since October 5, was admitted to the Medical College, Kolkata. So far, five doctors have been hospitalised after their health condition deteriorated.

The protesting doctors under the West Bengal Junior Doctors Front also took out a procession to the Raj Bhavan to highlight that they were not satisfied with the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

The CBI, in a chargesheet filed earlier this month, named Sanjay Roy, a civic police volunteer, as the only accused in the crime.

"Hon'ble Governor received the memorandum from the WB Junior Doctors' Front on their concerns about the RG Kar issue," the Raj Bhavan Media Cell said in a post on social media.

Meanwhile, senior doctors from private hospitals across West Bengal started a 48-hour cease-work protest and a 12-hour symbolic hunger strike on Monday to mark their support for the junior doctors.

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee, meanwhile, targeted the protesting doctors. "What kind of hunger strike is this? It starts from the protest venue and ends once they get hospitalised. The hunger strike that we know is a fast-unto-death, not a fast-unto-hospitalisation," the MP said.

'BIS should ensure access to high-quality products'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Monday that the well-being of consumers depends on their access to quality products. Taking potshots at the air purifier industry, he said consumers should not fall for misleading claims.

He said the "one nation, one standard" policy would ensure coherence and synergy among stakeholders working towards a unified standard framework in the country.

Mr. Joshi was speaking at an event organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards on World Standards Day. He asked the BIS to ensure that every citizen had access to safe, reliable, and high-quality products and services.

Citing the example of air purifiers, he said that as discussions had begun on air pollution, people were, out of fear, buying air purifiers looking at the Air Quality Index on their mobile phones. "Air purifiers make such false claims. We see that in air purifiers so much is written, but have nothing in it. Even though there is only just a fan inside, claims are still made," he said.

A.R. Rahman bats for Kamala Harris in upcoming U.S. Presidential election

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON

Music composer and singer A.R. Rahman endorsed U.S. Vice-President and Democratic candidate Kamala Harris for the White House, as he led a concert for her.

Ms. Harris's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a cancer researcher in California, was originally from Chennai (then Madras), from where Mr. Rahman hails.

The pre-recorded Sunday evening concert was organised by the AAPI Victory Fund, a Super PAC (Political Activity Committee) that is backing Ms. Harris and other Asian American candidates.

Mr. Rahman sang various well-known songs, including *Jai Ho* [Be Victorious] from *Slumdog Millionaire* and *Singapenney*, which translates to 'lioness', from the Tamil movie *Bigil*. He was accompanied by drummer Veeramani and sang duets, including with singer and voice actor Chinmayi Sripada.

A.R. Rahman

"Her [Ms. Harris] interest in focusing on what unites us instead of what divides us is a message that is very important, not just for the United States but for the world," Mr. Rahman said.

"As a fellow South Asian, Tamil, person, I'm deeply proud of her commitment to making the world a better place," he said.

Ms. Harris's mother was Indian and her father is Black, from Jamaica. In her book, *The Truths We Hold: An American Journey*, Ms. Harris, who was mostly raised by her mother, says Gopalan and her relatives "instilled us with pride in our South Asian roots" and that Ms. Harris and her sister, Maya, were raised with "a strong awareness of and appreciation for Indian culture". She also says her mother knew that, in the U.S., they would be seen as "black" and therefore raised them to be "confident, proud black women".

Speaking to the National Association of Black Journalists in July, former U.S. President Donald Trump, who is fighting Ms. Harris for the Presidency, had questioned her racial identity by suggesting that she had leaned into her Indian identity relatively more, until recently. Ms. Harris had characterised Mr. Trump's suggestion as an example of "the same old show: the divisiveness and the disrespect".

During Sunday's concert, the founder of AAPI, India-born Shekhar Narasimhan, urged participants to get involved in the elections. "You have to make a plan to vote. You have to volunteer in this campaign, and you have to donate," said Shekhar Narasimhan, adding, "It's called *tan man dhan* [body, mind, wealth]."

Mr. Narasimhan said that 400,000 Indian American voters in seven 'battleground States' [i.e., Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina] could become the "margin of difference" between winning and losing the election, given the victory margins in these States in 2020.

U.S. President Joe Biden won six of these States, while Mr. Trump won one, North Carolina, in 2020.

Stubble burning on the rise in Punjab and Haryana; Delhi's air quality dips

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Fire counts in Punjab, a proxy for stubble burning, have rapidly risen in the last week.

As many as 872 fire counts were reported from September 15 to October 13 in the State - a decline from the 1,230 reported for the same period last year and the lowest in five years.

However, this is a sharp rise from the 300 reported as of October 7, according to a Monday bulletin from the CREAMS-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), which compiles satellite-derived data on stubble burning.

An official at the Union Environment Ministry here told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity, that while there was an "overall" decline in stubble burning in Punjab since 2020, there is likely to be a spike in the coming weeks. "The harvesting of the rice has started and the stubble is being collected. However the thing to watch is if the farmers manage to sell the stubble to industries. If they don't, the straw will likely end up as smoke," he added.

As many as 872 fire counts were reported from September 15 to October 13 in Punjab. PTI

Past experience suggests that stubble burning in Punjab accelerates in the third week of October and remains elevated until mid-November.

On the other hand, neighbouring Haryana has so far seen the highest number of stubble-burning incidents since 2020. Already 468 instances have been reported, compared to 527 in 2020.

U.P. too sees a jump

This year, Uttar Pradesh too saw the maximum instances of stubble burning in five years, with 398 counts reported so far. The previous high was 296, reported in 2020.

Like in Punjab, these States too see a rise in fire counts beginning the third week of October.

On October 3, the Supreme Court slammed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) - the nodal body meant to coordinate anti-pollution measures among States - for failing to control incidents of stubble burning, and said it has made "no effort" to implement its direction to prevent such incidents. Prior to this, Punjab and Haryana had committed to "eliminate" stubble burning in 2024 through *in situ* (on the field) and *ex situ* residue management methods.

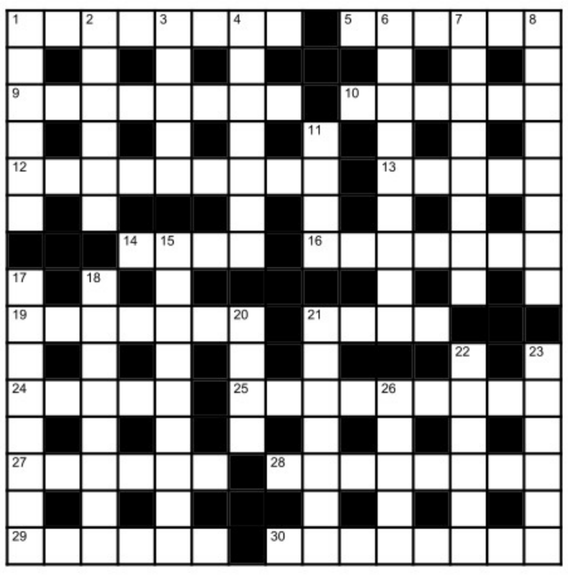
On Monday, air quality in Delhi was categorised as 'poor,' prompting the CAQM to recommend Stage-1 GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) restrictions on the city. These comprise about 27 directives to "strictly enforce" collection of garbage, construction and demolition waste, and emission norms among other things.

TH CROSSWORD + 14305

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Plant is copper-coloured - basically brown (8)
5 Raises popular fruit (6)
9 All in train ride welcomed by ticket-seller (5,3)
10 American city from the East, most attractive, very close to Houston (6)
12 Say, I am primarily obsessive, narcissistic, craving attention desperately (9)
13 Closing section of song about Rome, partly (5)
14 Everyone cycling gets hurt (4)
16 Tramp is embarrassed about smuggling crack (7)
19 In speech, hide firm's source of wealth - extremely profitable business (4,3)
21 Report describing Malta's parade (4)
24 Bit of masala with old Indian bread - divine food (5)
25 Revolutionary destroyed China's art (9)
27 Trouble going through garbage lying around in sewer (6)
28 Calm mind before replacing associate (8)
29 Delivery charges? (3-3)
30 How to make posh studio? (8)

Down

1 Boat captain's initial rank (6)
2 Ring my professor (6)
3 KrisKross' face shortly in newspapers, say (5)
4 Wise earl, ignorant about computers etc. (7)
6 Desirable to have Uranium converted into another element (9)
7 The male model had to think twice (8)
8 Stew, roti and chole, essentially made in a clay oven (8)
11 Biting and chewing idli / dosa for starters (4)
15 Boastful Spooner's offer: "A pound" (4-1-4)
17 Racism - it could be a dangerous weapon (8)
18 A star icon performing in capital city (8)
20 Stole some music for listening (4)
21 Quietly mix 40% booze as medicine (7)
22 European losing new coat (6)
23 Don't sleep in repulsive places when touring Alleppey on vacation (4,2)
26 Verify pattern (5)

SUDOKU

7		2					9	1
9		6		1				
	5					3		
	6		5				7	9
			1		7			
4	7				9		3	
		5					1	
				9		6		4
8	9					7		3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6310 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	8	7	9	5	1	4	6	3
9	4	6	2	3	7	1	8	5
5	1	3	6	8	4	2	7	9
8	5	2	1	6	3	7	9	4
7	9	1	8	4	5	6	3	2
6	3	4	7	9	2	5	1	8
3	2	8	4	7	6	9	5	1
1	7	9	5	2	8	3	4	6
4	6	5	3	1	9	8	2	7

FAITH

Destruction of Yama

Abirami Bhattar prays to Goddess Parvathi that when Yama comes to take his life, She should appear before him, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse.

Bhattar wants to see Her with Kalyanasundarar, as Siva is known when He weds Parvathi. Bhattar also wants to have darshan of Ardhanariswara, where Parvathi is on the left side of Siva. Thus he wants a darshan of both Siva and Parvathi before they become One, and after they become One. Siva is the One who kicked Yama. So He should be propitiated to keep fear away, when death approaches. Siva, by destroying Yama, saved His devotee Markandeya, who further was given the boon of immortality. Markandeya was told that he would never age, and would always be 16 years old! But Siva kicked Yama with His left foot, and who is on the left side of Siva? It is Goddess Parvathi! So, in reality it is the Goddess' foot that kicked away the god of death, thereby saving Markandeya.

Keeping pride away

Bhattar had a strong attachment to Abirami, as Parvathi is known in the Thirukkadaiyur temple. Bhattar prays that the Goddess should vanquish his pride.

Kumaraguruparar in his Meenakshi Pillai Tamizh says that we must remove pride from our minds. He likens pride to a root vegetable. Root vegetables have mud sticking to them, and they need a good wash before they can be used. Pride is like these vegetables, and "I" and "Mine" are like the mud that attaches itself to the vegetables. Ego is a hurdle to liberation.

INBRIEF

HCLTech reports 11% jump in Q2 net profit to ₹4,235 crore

HCLTech on Monday reported an 11% increase in its second-quarter net profit to ₹4,235 crore from ₹3,832 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations rose 8.2% to ₹28,862 crore from ₹26,672 crore in the previous year. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹12 for FY25, which would be paid on October 30. All eligible employees who had completed a year in service with the company would be given an average pay hike of 7% in October, the tech firm said.

Oriental Hotels Q2 net profit contracts 11% to ₹9.20 crore

Oriental Hotels' standalone Q2 net profit contracted 11% to ₹9.20 crore. Revenue from operations jumped to ₹103 crore from ₹90 crore. The hospitality service provider said in a filing it witnessed a substantial increase in input costs by more than a crore to ₹10.64 crore. "With the completion of all major renovations and given the demand buoyancy, the second half of the fiscal is well poised for a double-digit revenue growth," said MD & CEO Pramod Ranjan.

SWREL turns ₹8.5 crore profit in September quarter

Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy Ltd. (SWREL) on Monday reported a consolidated profit of ₹8.57 crore for the September quarter. The company had posted a loss of ₹54.51 crore in the year-earlier period, it said in an exchange filing. Total income rose to ₹1,064.45 crore from ₹776.73 crore a year earlier, while expenses stood at ₹1,044.38 crore as against ₹826.68 crore. SWREL's offerings include EPC solutions for hybrid energy and energy storage.

Sept. wholesale food prices leapt 9.5%

Fuel, power costs slid over 4% last month, while manufactured product prices rose just 1%, reining in overall wholesale inflation pace to 1.84% from 1.3% in Aug.; most economists expect WPI to rise further in Oct. on West Asia crisis, food prices

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Inflation in India's wholesale prices ticked up to 1.84% in September from 1.31% in August, with food prices surging to a two-year high of 9.5% from August's 10-month low of 3.3%, as vegetables became nearly 49% costlier, marking the sharpest surge in 14 months.

Potato and onion prices were up 78.1% and 78.8%, respectively, in September, accelerating from the previous month, while tomato prices zoomed 74.5%, reversing course from a 53% decline in August. Fruits and pulses inflation eased marginally but remained high at 12.2% and 13%, respectively.

Pocket unfriendly: Potato and onion prices were up 78.1% and 78.8%, respectively, in September. THE HINDU

Cereals and paddy inflation eased fractionally to 8.1%, but wheat prices rose at a faster pace of 7.6% during September. Milk inflation cooled a bit to 3.2%, while eggs, meat and fish prices fell 0.8%.

Manufactured food products recorded an inflation of 5.5% in September, while vegetable and animal oils and fats were up 10.5%, albeit on a benign base last year when prices had fallen for both.

Mild uptick

Despite food price rise rebound, Wholesale Price Index (WPI) saw only a mild uptick on fuel and power prices dipping over 4% from September 2023 and manufactured products inflation easing a tad to 1%.

Month-on-month, the WPI was up a mild 0.06%, the food index seeing the highest gain of 1.1% .

With oil and commodity prices seeing an uptick this month, amid escalation of tensions in West Asia, and food price rise expected to stay elevated, most economists expect the WPI to rise further in October.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar reckoned wholesale inflation could be between 2%-2.5% in October, adding the second half of 2024-25 could see a 'faster-than-anticipated rise' in prices if commodity prices and geopolitical conflicts flare up further.

RIL Q2 net slips 5% to ₹16,563 crore as oil to chemicals business lags

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) second-quarter consolidated net profit slid 4.77% year-on-year to ₹16,563 crore on weak contribution from the oil to chemicals (O2C) business.

Gross revenue rose a tad to ₹2,58,027 crore.

While O2C business revenue improved 5.1% with higher volumes and increased domestic placement of products, the EBITDA slipped 23.7% to ₹12,413 crore on account of a sharp decline in product margins. Fuel cracks declined by nearly 50%, RIL said in a filing.

Mukesh Ambani

"Downstream chemicals also declined with muted global demand in a well-supplied market. RIL benefited due to superior ethane cracking economics driven by sharp fall in ethane prices," it added.

Lower gas price realisations led to a 6% lower revenue in the oil and gas segment. But it reported 11% growth in EBITDA to ₹5,290 crore.

Jio Platforms Ltd. reported 23.4% growth in net profit to ₹6,539 crore on a revenue of ₹37,119 crore, which grew 17.7%. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. reported 1.3% growth in net profit to ₹2,836 crore on a topline of ₹76,302 crore, down 1.1% as people deferred purchases of fashion, electronics and lifestyle products to the festive season.

Mukesh D. Ambani, CMD, said, "Our performance reflects robust growth in digital services and upstream business. This helped partially offset weak contribution from O2C which was impacted by unfavorable global demand-supply dynamics.

"Growth in digital services was led by increased ARPU and improving customer engagement metrics reflecting the strong value proposition of our services. Home broadband segment is witnessing accelerated momentum on the back of out unique JioAirFiber offering," he said.

"The retail segment continues to increase its consumer touchpoints and product offerings across physical and digital channels," Mr. Ambani added.

'Cement demand growth to slow to 7-8%'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Cement demand growth is expected to slow down to 7-8% to 475 million tonnes (MT) in the current fiscal due to lower construction activity, reduced infrastructure spending and geopolitical risk, easing from a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11% between FY22 and FY24, Crisil said in a research note. Demand in the sector grew at

Cement demand rose just about 3% in Q1, and is likely to grow at the same pace in Q2 as well, the rating agency estimated.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,973	0.73
US Dollar	84.05	0.05
Gold	78,700	0.25
Brent oil	77.37	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3101.10	-36.10
Adani Ports	1410.30	2.05
Apollo Hosp	7092.60	109.20
Asian Paints	3039.15	1.95
Axis Bank	1164.35	-8.10
Bajaj Auto	11899.30	22.35
Bajaj Finserv	1867.20	-9.20
Bajaj Finance	7208.80	-93.20
Bharat Elec	285.70	-0.20
Bharti Airtel	1695.60	8.20
BPCL	340.75	3.10
Britannia Ind	5978.05	-0.45
Cipla	1598.45	2.70
Coal India	498.30	5.35
Dr Reddys Lab	6659.90	60.70
Eicher Motors	4779.80	51.75
Grasim Ind	2726.90	1.35
HCL Tech	1855.90	16.25
HDFC Bank	1688.10	37.10
HDFC Life	740.60	16.75
Hero MotoCorp	5555.35	79.05
Hindalco	743.00	-4.35
Hind Unilever	2789.10	5.90
ICICI Bank	1231.75	8.75
IndusInd Bank	1370.45	22.85
Infosys	1958.90	23.80
ITC	496.95	8.75
JSW Steel	1012.50	0.45
Kotak Bank	1910.80	28.40
L&T	3555.05	72.50
M&M	3154.90	20.55
Maurti Suzuki	12537.85	-238.80
NestleIndia	2502.05	-9.75
NTPC	424.50	2.00
ONGC	286.50	-6.05
PowerGrid Corp	330.70	0.65
Reliance Ind	2745.05	0.85
SBI Life	1738.30	3.25
State Bank	805.15	5.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3395.30	54.10
Sun Pharma	1909.75	7.80
TataConsumerProduct	1113.55	0.45
Tata Motors	928.25	-2.45
Tata Steel	158.32	-2.34
TCS	4136.65	-12.55
Tech Mahindra	1692.50	45.45
Titan	3497.80	23.40
Trent Ltd.	8191.85	-43.10
UltraTech Cement	11300.30	-121.00
Wipro	549.55	21.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.86	84.18
Euro	91.57	91.92
British Pound	109.41	109.83
Japanese Yen (100)	56.03	56.25
Chinese Yuan	11.84	11.88
Swiss Franc	97.37	97.76
Singapore Dollar	64.13	64.39
Canadian Dollar	60.78	61.02
Malaysian Ringitt	19.50	19.60

Source:Indian Bank

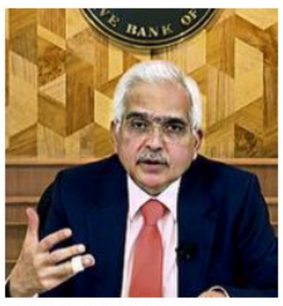
'Banks must ride on AI, Bigtech advantages, not the other way'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Concerned over the high reliance on AI and machine learning in the banking space, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said lenders ought to ride on the advantages of big tech and not the other way around.

Stressing that the latest technological advancements such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) had opened up new avenues of business and profit expansion for financial institutions, he said, these technologies also posed financial stability risks.

"The heavy reliance on AI can lead to concentration risks, especially when a small number of tech providers dominate the market. This could amplify systemic risks, as failures or disruptions in these systems may cascade across the entire financial sector," he said in his keynote address at a conference organised by the RBI here.



Shaktikanta Das

Moreover, he said, the growing use of AI introduced new vulnerabilities such as increased susceptibility to cyberattacks and data breaches.

Additionally, AI's opacity made it difficult to audit or interpret the algorithms that drove decisions, he said, adding that this could potentially lead to unpredictable consequences in the markets.

"Banks and other financial institutions must put in place adequate risk mitigation measures against all these risks. In the ultimate analysis, banks have to ride on the advantages of AI and Bigtech and not allow the latter to ride on them," Mr. Das said.

Banks have to remain alert in the social media space and also strengthen their liquidity buffers, the RBI Governor said.

Indian firms may spend $800 bn in 10 years: S&P

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

"India's large business groups will spend about $800 billion on growth over the next 10 years, almost triple of what they spent over the prior decade," according to a S&P Global Ratings report on Monday.

"About 40% of Indian conglomerates' spending over the coming decade will be on new businesses, such as green hydrogen, clean energy, electric vehicles and data centres," said Neel Gopalakrishnan, Credit Analyst, S&P Global.

"Vedanta, Tata, Adani, Reliance and JSW alone are prepping $350 billion investment in these sectors."

'Ratan Tata ensured well-being of staff, families'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The late Ratan Tata always ensured employees are taken care of along with the well-being of their families across the Tata Group companies, which shaped a number of leaders across the conglomerate, and there really was no one like him, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said on Monday.

"Anybody who met Mr Tata came away with a story about his humanity, warmth, and dreams for India. There really was no one like him," he wrote in a post on networking platform LinkedIn.

Tata, SP groups may patch up with Noel Tata at the helm

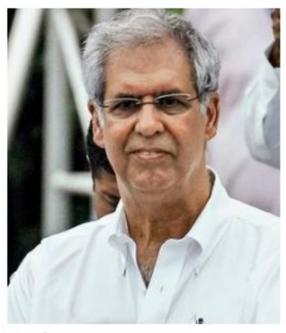
Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The strained relationship between the Tata Group and Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group is expected to normalise soon with the appointment of Noel Tata as the chairman of Tata Trusts, according to sources in the know.

The sources said a new chapter of reconciliation between both groups would begin shortly, leading to a settlement of any disagreements.

Mr. Tata is the son-in-law of the late Pallonji Mistry and brother-in-law of SP Group chairman Shapoorji Mistry and the late Cyrus Mistry.

It may be recalled that



Noel Tata

Mr. Mistry was ousted as Tata Sons Chairman in 2016 in a boardroom coup led by the late Mr. Tata and some of his close confidants from Tata Trusts and Tata Sons board.

Since then, all communication and ties between the Tata and Mistry families collapsed even though they remained related in marriage and business.

The Shapoorji Pallonji Group holds 18.37% stake in Tata Sons, and is the firm's largest minority shareholder. Tata Trusts holds about 66% of the stake in Tata Sons.

Tata Trust executive committee member Mehli Mistry, a close confidant of the late Mr. Tata and estranged cousin of the late Cyrus Mistry, was reportedly a front-runner for the chairman's post at Tata Trusts after the demise of Mr. Ratan Tata.

However, according to people in the know, Mr. Noel Tata's reputation as a successful and non-controversial businessman had worked in his favour.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER — **TENDER NOTICE**
Adv.No.26/D3/CE/TTD/2024-25 & NIT No.151/SE-II/TTD/2024-25 Dt:14/10/2024
Name of work: 1) Providing galleries at North West Corner of Mada Streets in open space at Tirumala, Amount Rs.525 Lakhs, Time for completion 12 months.
NOTE: For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org**.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.180) Date:14-10-2024 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, गोरखपुर
All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Ref. No. AIIMS/GKP/RECT/FACULTY/2024-25/58 — Date: 10th October 2024

Recruitment Notification

SUBJECT: Rolling Notification for recruitment of Group 'A' Faculty Posts on Direct recruitment / Deputation/ Contract and Retired Faculty on Contract Basis/Under SRESTA, Faculty Nursing College on Direct Recruitment Basis and Non-Faculty post on Direct Recruitment/Deputation Basis at AIIMS Gorakhpur
Offline applications from Indian citizens/other citizens as permissible under the applicable Act/ Rules are invited for the following faculty posts and non-faculty post in All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh):

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Level As per 7th CPC	Total Number of tentative vacancies	Number of post category-wise				
				UR	EWS	OBC	SC	ST
1	Professor	14-A	20	06	03	05	04	02
2	Additional Professor	13-A2+	16	07	00	06	03	00
3	Associate Professor	13-A1+	12	05	00	02	03	02
4	Assistant Professor	12	16	02	02	07	03	02
5	Associate Professor (Reader) in Nursing	12	01	01	00	00	00	00
6	Account Officer	10	01	01	00	00	00	00
Total			66	22	05	20	13	06

Last Date of offline application: - 30th day from the date of publication of employment notification in the Employment News
The above vacancies are provisional and subject to variation. The Executive Director, AIIMS, Gorakhpur reserves the right to vary the vacancies including reserved vacancies as per the Govt. of India rules/circulars and requirements. **Application form along with department wise details of seats, reservation, terms and conditions etc. of the various posts are available on institute's website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in**
All the applicants are advised to check AIIMS, Gorakhpur website www.aiimsgorakhpur.edu.in on regular basis for any further updates.
SD/-
Executive Director
AIIMS, Gorakhpur

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Dasarahalli Zone,
Hesaragatta Main Road, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru-73
No: SADH/DZ/TENDER/54/2024-25 — Dated: 14.10.2024
LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
SHORT TERM (Two Cover System) **(STD KW-4)**
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Dasarahalli), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/ Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents).

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Landscape development of Banyan Tree Park Part-1 & 2 in Ward No-17-Chikkasandra, HMT Layout Park Part-9 in Ward No-20-Nelagadaranahalli, Sunkadakatte Pipeline Park, Part-3 in Ward No-25-Sunkadakatte & Nelamaheswaramma Temple Park in Ward No-19-T.Dasarahalli. **Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST): ₹.1,29,87,523/- EMD: ₹.2,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **14.10.2024.** **(2)** Tender can be downloaded from **18.10.2024.** **(3)** Pre-Bid meeting on **21.10.2024** at **11:00** am. **(4)** Tender Closing date **24.10.2024** at **5:00** pm. **(5)** Technical Bid Opening date on **28.10.2024** at **11:00** am. **(6)** Financial Bid opening date: After Approval of Technical Bid.
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture
BBMP Bengaluru

BRIC NIAB a DBT Organisation — National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Survey No. 37, Opp. Journalist colony, Extended Q City Road,
Near Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032
Tel: +91 40 2312 0103/115; Email: admin@niab.org.in;
Web: www.niab.res.in
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
PhD Admission Program - 2024
NIAB, a premier autonomous institution of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), engaging in research in animal biotechnology, invites applications from motivated students for admission to its PhD program (2024). Students with Master's (M. Sc./M. Tech./M. V. Sc./M. Pharm.)/MBBS/B. Tech. degree in any branch of Life Science and with a valid CSIR/UGC/DBT/ICMR/INSPIRE NET-JRF/UGC-RGNF or any other national research fellowship for 5 years are eligible to apply. The last date of application is 30/10/2024.
For more information and application process, please visit NIAB website:
www.niab.res.in
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, Police Computer Wing,
7th Floor, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru 560001.
E-mail: dgppcw@ksp.gov.in **Tel No.**22353871
No.37/STS/DGP/PCW/2024-25 — Dated : 10.10.2024
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
The tenders are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for Supply and Install of following items required to the KSP Data Center.

Sl. No	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty	Last Date for submission of tender
1	KSP/2024-25/ IND0194	Supply, Deployment and Maintenance of Security incident and event Management (SIEM) Security Orchestration, Automation and Response (SOAR) User Entity and Behavior Analytics (UEBA) and Network Behaviour Anomaly Detection (NBAD) for Karnataka State Police Data Centre	01	06/11/2024 by 17:30 hrs

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-Procurement portal. The training about e-Procurement is being provided at e-Procurement cell, e-Governance Department, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. The vendors may contact the helpline No : 91 - 8046010000 + 91 -8068948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.Tender document will be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**from **15/10/2024.**
(1) Details : **Downloading of Tender Document & last date of submission of Tender Document :** (from 15/10/2024 to 06/11/2024 before 17:30 hrs). **(2) EMD amount : Rs.6,60,000/- (Six Lakh Sixty Thousand only)** which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. (a) Credit Card (b) Debit Card, (c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), (d) Detail of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-payment document available on website). **(3) Pre bid Meeting :** 22-10-2024 at 12.30 hrs. **(4) Technical bid** : 08-11-2024 at 11.00 hrs **(5) Commercial bid :** 14-11-2024 at 11.00 hrs.
Sd/-
Director General of Police
Police Computer Wing, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/2505/Zen/2024-25

TEHRAN

'No grounds' for indirect talks with U.S., says Iran's Foreign Minister

AP

Iran said it sees "no grounds" for its indirect talks with the U.S. via intermediary Oman, citing the crisis in West Asia. In June, Tehran said it had engaged in indirect talks with Washington. "Currently, we don't see any grounds for these talks, until we can get past the current crisis," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia jails French researcher for breaching 'foreign agent' law

AFP

A Russian court on Monday sentenced a French researcher to three years in a penal colony after finding him guilty of breaching a "foreign agent" law. Laurent Vinatier, who works for a Swiss conflict mediation NGO, was charged with gathering information on Russia's military without being registered as a "foreign agent". AFP

KABUL

Taliban vow to implement media ban on images of living things

AFP

Afghanistan's Taliban morality ministry pledged on Monday to implement a law banning news media from publishing images of all living things, with journalists told the rule will be gradually enforced. It comes after the Taliban recently announced legislation formalising their strict interpretations of Islamic law. AFP

KYIV

Russia seizes a village in southern Ukraine before winter setting in

AP

Russia said it captured the village of Levadne in south Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000 km front line. Levadne in Zaporizhzhia was seized by the Russians when the war began in 2022, but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023. AP

At least 21 killed in Israeli strike on village in Lebanon

The Christian-majority village is located in north of the country, far from Hezbollah strongholds; DNA test being held to identify body parts recovered from site that housed a residential building

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Health Ministry said at least 21 people died on Monday in a rare Israeli strike on a northern Christian-majority village, far from Hezbollah strongholds, with DNA tests being conducted to identify body parts.

A Lebanese security official said the building "housed families displaced from Lebanon's south, and was targeted shortly after a man had arrived in a car".

"The Israeli enemy strike on the village of Aito... killed in a preliminary toll 21 people and injured eight. DNA tests are being conducted to determine the identity of body parts recovered at the strike site," the Ministry said, referring to a village in the Christian-majority Zgharta district.

Little mercy: Paramedics transport a body unearthed at the site of an Israeli airstrike in the village of Aito on Monday. AFP

The official National News Agency said Israel targeted a "residential apartment" in the village.

So far, Israeli strikes have mainly been concentrated in predominantly Shia Muslim areas.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah said it launched a barrage of rockets at the north Israeli town of Safed on Monday.

Hezbollah fighters fired a "big rocket salvo" at Safed, the group said in a statement, adding that it was in response to Israeli attacks on Lebanese "cities, villages and civilians".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday vowed to strike Hezbollah without mercy following a deadly drone strike on a military base in Israel, and retaliation would extend to targets in Beirut.

Attacks against UN peacekeepers may be war crimes, Guterres warns Israel

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the back-to-back attacks on the UN Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL), UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres cautioned that attacks against peacekeepers are in breach of international law and "may constitute a war crime."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin, in a telephonic conversation with his Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant, reiterated the importance of ensuring the safety and security of UNIFIL forces and Lebanese armed forces.

"The safety of UN personnel & property must be guaranteed. The inviolability of UN premises must be respected at all times. Attacks against peacekeepers are in breach of international law and may constitute a war crime. UNIFIL personnel & premises must never be targeted," Mr. Guterres said on social media platform X during the early hours of Monday.

First responders: Members of Lebanon's Civil Defence at their station in Beirut's Cola neighbourhood. AFP

As Israeli forces in Lebanon were hit by a drone attack by Hezbollah which killed four soldiers, Mr. Austin reinforced the need to "pivot from military operations in Lebanon to a diplomatic pathway as soon as feasible."

"I also raised the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and stressed that steps must be taken to address it. I reaffirmed the United States' unwavering, enduring, and ironclad commitment to Israel's security," Mr. Austin said in a post on X.

Unwavering UNIFIL

Against the backdrop of the ongoing hostilities in southern Lebanon and despite attacks that have hit UN positions, injuring a number of peacekeepers in the past several days, "UNIFIL peacekeepers remain in all positions and the UN flag continues to fly," Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the Secretary-General said in a statement.

He said that UNIFIL continuously assesses and reviews all factors to determine its posture and presence and the mission is taking all possible measures to ensure the protection of its peacekeepers.

Trio wins economics Nobel for work on wealth inequality

Agence France-Presse
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel prize in economics was awarded on Monday to Turkish-American Daron Acemoglu and British-Americans Simon Johnson and James Robinson for research into wealth inequality between nations.

By examining the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers, the three have demonstrated a relationship between societal institutions and prosperity, the jury said.

"Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges,"

The three researchers examined the various political and economic systems introduced by European colonisers. REUTERS

Jakob Svensson, chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said in a statement.

"The laureates have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for achieving this," Mr. Svensson added.

Mr. Acemoglu, 57, and Mr. Johnson, 61, are professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Mr. Robinson, 64, is a professor at the University of Chicago.

The jury highlighted the laureates' work in illuminating how political and economic institutions play a role in explaining why some countries prosper while others do not.

'Inclusive institutions'

In a statement explaining the prize, the jury noted the example of the city of Nogales, which is divided by the U.S.-Mexican border, where residents on the U.S. side of the city tend to be better off.

"The decisive difference is thus not geography or culture, but institutions," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The U.S. economic system provides residents north of the border greater opportunities to choose their education and profession, and they are part of the U.S. political system, which gives them broad political rights.

By contrast, south of the border, residents live under other economic conditions, and the political system limits their potential to influence legislation.

In addition, the jury noted that the laureates' research also helped explain why some countries become trapped in a situation of "low economic growth."

Mr. Acemoglu, who was "delighted" to receive the award, told reporters that the "work that we had done favours democracy."

Speaking via telephone from Athens as the award was announced in Stockholm, Mr. Acemoglu said that the economies of "countries that democratise, starting from a non-democratic regime" grow faster than non-democratic regimes. "And it's a substantial gain," Mr. Acemoglu said.

Mr. Acemoglu is the author of several best-sellers including "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty"

China deploys record 125 warplanes in drills around Taiwan

Associated Press
TAIPEI

Beijing says it wanted to punish Taiwan President for rejecting China's claims of sovereignty

China employed a record 125 aircraft, as well as its Liaoning aircraft carrier and ships, in large-scale military exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying islands on Monday, simulating the sealing off of key ports in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait, officials said. China made clear it was to punish Taiwan's President for rejecting Beijing's claim of sovereignty over the self-governed island.

The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, when Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation."

Sport

New National champion Nandhidhaa sets sights on becoming a GM

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

All's well that ends well is how P.V. Nandhidhaa will be feeling after winning her maiden National title. Having won trophies across various age groups at the national level, the 28-year-old from Salem clinched the top prize at the 50th National women's chess championship, overcoming a quality field.

The new National champion and WGM has now set her sights on reaching 2500 Elo rating and also becoming a GM (only three Indian women – K. Humpy, D. Harika and R. Vaishali) are GMs.

The triumph didn't come on a platter. The Tamil Nadu player won a tense last round game to emerge champion.

Nandhidhaa.

"I felt a lot of pressure going into the final round. Thankfully, my parents, and husband and coach (M. Shyam Sundar) were around. They motivated me before the game and it turned out to be a good one," Nandhidhaa told *The Hindu*. The stunning win by the Indian men's and women's teams at the recent Olympiad seems to have spurred Nandhidhaa. She said the young players in the team have a wonderful mindset, which she hopes to emulate.

"I am amazed with kids like Gukesh and others. Their mindset is wonderful. They want to give their best in every game.

"There is a lot to learn from the youngsters. Winning the Olympiad was a huge thing. They maintained their intensity in every match," Nandhidhaa, who is aiming to be among the country's top five players which would allow her to be part of teams in various events, said.

She also welcomed the admiration and love chess was getting across India, especially in Tamil Nadu.

Having qualified for next year's World Cup, she is keen to make it count after a first-round exit in the 2023 edition.

About the upcoming World championship match between Gukesh and Ding Liren, she said, "I think Gukesh is the favourite. He should not put himself under pressure. I hope he wins."

Nandhidhaa, who featured in the Olympiad at Mamallapuram near here in 2022, is eager to be part of the national team at the marquee event again and show that she belongs to the big league.

Spin-heavy Pakistan faces confident England

Agencies
MULTAN

Returning England captain Ben Stokes said on Monday he hopes a reused pitch for the second Test against Pakistan here will play into the tourists' hands rather than the spin-heavy hosts.

Desperate to level the three-match series after an innings and 47-run defeat on Friday, Pakistan named three spinners in four changes from the first Test.

Rare move

In a rare move, Pakistan has decided to use the same flat surface on which England piled up 823 for seven declared in reply to its 556 all out.

Silver Act wins the S.S. Cardmaster Memorial Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer Magan Singh Parmar's Silver Act, ridden by Mukesh Kumar, won the S.S. Cardmaster Memorial Cup, the chief event of Monday's (Oct. 14) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan, Mr. Nirmal Singh & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer K. Satheesh saddled three winners of the day.

THE RESULTS:

1. MULUGU PLATE (1,600m): **LONDON BELL** (R.S. Jodha) 1, Definite (Mukesh) 2, Politics (Md. Ismail) 3 and Cash Register (Akshay K) 4. 5-3/4, 5-1/4 and 3/4. 1m 14.58s. ₹36 (w), 12, 19 and 11 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 30, SHW: 17 and 15, FP: 324, Q: 162, Tanala: 1,243. Favourite: Cash Register.

Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. NIZAMABAD PLATE (Div. II) (1,400m): **VITAL SIGN** (B.R. Kumar) 1, Freedom Touch (P. Sai K) 2, Eminency (Md. Ekram) 3 and Great Giver (Kuldeep Jr.) 4. 3, 1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 26.93s. ₹45 (w), 14, 12 and 10 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 20, FP: 123, Q: 60, Tanala: 315. Favourite: Varaneek Gold.

Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. KINNERASANI CUP (Div. II) (1,200m): **MIKIMOTO** (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Warwick (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Nucleus (Mohit) 3 and Power Ranger (Gaurav) 4. 5-1/2, 4-1/4 and 4-3/4. 1m 12.29s. ₹15 (w), 10, 19 and 17 (p). SHP: 48, Q: 52, Tanala: 167. Favourite: Mikimoto.

Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mrs. T. Rohini & Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. SIKANDER E AZAM PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m): **CHALLENGER** (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Pancho (Sonu K) 2, Sweet Dancer (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Swiss Girl (B.R. Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 3 and 2-1/4. 1m 13.90s. ₹21 (w), 10, 24 and 13 (p). SHP: 81, THP: 48, SHW: 42 and 39, FP: 158, Q: 108, Tanala: 327. Favourite: Challenger.

Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

NOTE: In this race, Top In Class dislodged his rider Ajay Kumar soon after the start. Ajay Kumar escaped unhurt.

5. KINNERASANI CUP (Div. I) (1,200m): **ENCORE** (R.S. Jodha) 1, Calistoga (Afroz K) 2, Briar Ridge (Sonu K) 3 and Fara (Abhay Singh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m 13.34s. ₹85 (w), 19, 11 and 30 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 139, SHW: 49 and 10, FP: 244, Q: 60, Tanala: 7,069. Favourite: Calistoga.

Owner: Mr. Al Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. S.S. CARDMASTER MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m): **SILVER ACT** (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Voice Of A Dream (Surya Prakash) 2, Alpine Girl (Mohit) 3 and Nightmare (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. 4-1/2, Neck and 1-1/4. 2m 6.72s. ₹21 (w), 12, 10 and 37 (p). SHP: 60, THP: 146, SHW: 18 and 18, FP: 104, Q: 86, Tanala: 1,376. Favourite: Silver Act.

Owners: Mr. Hari Sharan Devgan, Mr. Nirmal Singh & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Magan Singh.

7. SIKANDER E AZAM PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m): **RED SNAPER** (Afroz Khan) 1, Star Medal (Gaurav) 2, Star Cruise (Ajay K) 3 and Ambitious Star (Md. Ekram) 4. Neck, 2 and 2-1/4. 1m 14.31s. ₹33 (w), 13, 32 and 13 (p). SHP: 81, THP: 50, SHW: 17 and 51, FP: 490, Q: 218, Tanala: 2,088. Favourite: Inderdhanush.

Owners: Ms. Meka Ahalya & Mrs. Rajini Meka. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

8. NIZAMABAD PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m): **TORCHBEARER** (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Mix The Magic (B. Nikhil) 2, Newfound Glory (P. Sai K) 3 and Caraxes (Md. Ismail) 4. 3-3/4, 5-3/4 and Neck. 1m 28.01s. ₹25 (w), 11, 15 and 35 (p). SHP: 54, THP: 89, SHW: 21 and 67, FP: 342, Q: 230, Tanala: 2,389. Favourite: Brilliant Blue.

Owners: Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹11,004 (47 tkts.), 30%: 833 (266 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i): 1,106 (61 tkts.), (ii): 7,874 (9 tkts.).

Treble: (i): 326 (100 tkts.), (ii): 345 (75 tkts.), (iii): 450 (157 tkts).

WORTHY OPPONENT

New Zealand has the players to hurt us, says Gambhir

K. MURALI KUMAR

"They (New Zealand) have got players who can hurt us. They've got players who can do the job for them as well. So we respect them, but we don't fear anyone. We will always respect every opposition. We want to be selfless and humble," India head coach Gautam Gambhir said when asked about the New Zealand Test team.

QUALITY SIDE

India plays a positive brand of cricket, says Ravindra

K. MURALI KUMAR

"India has always been a quality side. The brand of cricket they play is very positive, especially in their own conditions. They know how to play in India, as they've grown up on these wickets. The way the Indian players have evolved over the last few years has been amazing," New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra said.

UNFORTUNATE

Australia all-rounder Green out of Border-Gavaskar series

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was on Monday ruled out of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series owing to a stress fracture in his spine that will need six months to heal after surgery. Green is also set to miss Australia's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. His participation in the IPL is also in doubt.

BACK IN THE MIDDLE

The opener Smith experiment has ended, says chief selector Bailey

FILE PHOTO

Steve Smith's short-lived stint as a Test opener came to an end on Monday with confirmation he will drop down the Australian batting order in the five-Test series against India next month. "Steve had expressed a desire to move back down from that opening position," chief selector George Bailey said.

'We want to be a team that can make 400 in a day and bat two days to get a draw'

Head coach Gambhir emphasises on the need to adapt to situations, backs 'world-class' Kohli's hunger for runs and feels this is the era for bowlers

NZ IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Back in 2009, Gautam Gambhir played a stellar knock in the second India-New Zealand Test at Napier. His nearly 11-hour vigil helped India force a draw when following on.

Now the India head coach, Gambhir does not entertain warm tales of nostalgia. "All that is history. It is in the past," Gambhir said at a press conference here on Monday when reminded of his exploits.

The follow up question, however, got Gambhir's attention. In this age of attacking cricket, is it possible for a batter to show the immense patience that Gambhir did in that Napier match? The former opener certainly believes so.

"We want to be a team that can make 400 runs in a day, and bat for two days to get a draw. That's called growth. That's called adaptability. That's called Test cricket. If we're in a situation where we have to bat for two days to draw, we have a lot of individuals who can do that. The first motive is to win the match, and the second or last option is to play for a draw," Gambhir said.

Top guns: The trio of Kohli, Rohit and Bumrah is central to Gambhir's plans as the team looks to set new benchmarks while Kuldeep could be the attacking spin-bowling option. K. MURALI KUMAR

The first Test between India and New Zealand, which commences here on Wednesday, could see Virat Kohli reach 9,000 Test runs. The former India captain is 53 runs short of the mark.

Kohli has not made a fifty in the three Tests he has played this year, but did chip in with an important 35-ball 47 against Bangladesh in the second Test at Kanpur. Gambhir stated that Kohli is as hungry as ever for the big runs.

"My thoughts about Virat has always been very clear - he is a world-class cricketer. He has performed for such a long period of time, and he is as hungry as when he made his debut.

" I remember opening the batting with him when he made his debut in Sri Lanka (in 2008). Even now, his hunger is always there. I am sure that he will be looking forward to these three Tests and the series in Australia as well," Gambhir said.

Gambhir explained that this era belongs to bowlers, and that it is time to get over the general obsession with batters.

"This is the time of bowlers. Batsmen only set up matches. It is very important that our batsman-obsessed attitude ends.

"If a batsman makes a thousand runs, there is no guarantee that he will win the Test match. But if a bowler takes 20 wickets, there is a 99 per cent guarantee that he will win the Test match. In any format, bowlers win you the tournament. I hope that in this era, we will talk more about bowlers as compared to batters," Gambhir said.

Plotting the moves: Ravindra and Phillips will have key roles to play for New Zealand. K. MURALI KUMAR

Call on Williamson's availability after first Test, reveals Ravindra

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A call on Kane Williamson's availability for the second and third Tests will be taken at a later date, New Zealand all-rounder Rachin Ravindra stated. As it stands, a groin strain has ruled Williamson out of the first Test which begins here on Wednesday.

"We're not sure. I guess he (Williamson) will play it by ear. Some news will come out soon enough," Ravindra said at a press conference here on Monday.

The Bengaluru Test counts as a special occasion for Ravindra, as he has strong family roots in the Garden City.

"This Test is extra significant for me because of the family connection. I'm born and brought up in Wellington – I'm a Kiwi all the way through. (But) I'm very proud of my Indian heritage. To play where a lot of my family is based is something pretty special. There will be a bunch of them in the crowd. I know my dad will be here watching the game," Ravindra said.

The Indian team has been on a roll, crushing Bangladesh at Kanpur earlier this month despite losing nearly three days due to rain.

Ravindra acknowledged that the home side is packed with quality, but added that his unit is not far behind.

"We've got some quality players in our set-up – Kane, Tom Latham, Devon Conway, Daryl Mitchell... Devon is very good at reverse sweeping and sweeping. Daryl is the same. It is about finding our own method and being comfortable with it," Ravindra said.

NZ wins, knocks India out of World Cup

Lavanya L
DUBAI

A spirited fielding performance made up for an underwhelming batting show as New Zealand progressed past the group stage and entered its first Women's T20 World Cup semifinal since 2016.

Amelia Kerr and Eden Carson led the charge in White Ferns' 54-run victory over Pakistan in the final league fixture of Group A here on Monday.

Fatima Sana, returning after the demise of her father, had an emotional start to the game, breaking down in tears during the National anthem.

Slippery catching would be a feature of the entire Pakistan bowling effort, with over eight chances going through the hands of the Women in Green. Despite the generosity shown to them, Sophie Devine's New Zealand was never able to capitalise and build partnerships, limping its way to 110 for six.

In promoting Aliya Riaz to open, Pakistan's intentions to try and chase the target within 10 overs to give itself a chance to leapfrog India and New Zealand was clear.

But the pursuit never really took off with wickets falling at regular intervals and the team fell well short, putting India also out of the World Cup.

The scores: New Zealand 110/6 in 20 overs (Nashra Sandhu 3/18) bt Pakistan 56 in 11.4 overs (Eden Carson 2/7, Amelia Kerr 3/14).
Toss: New Zealand.
PoM: Carson.

Gotcha! Carson derailed Pakistan's chase with a superb spell. AP

Muzumdar disappointed but looks at brighter picture

Lavanya L
SHARJAH

India head coach Amol Muzumdar twitched each time someone said 'hard luck' to him after an excruciatingly close nine-run loss to Australia in their final T20 World Cup group game at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

"We were in the game right till the last over. Australia's experience saw them through," he said about the loss which all but ended India's campaign in the UAE.

Muzumdar insisted that the team put its best foot forward in the must-win game.

"A couple of chances (dropped catches)... we could have taken them. Things could have been different.

"Maybe (conceding) 10 -15 runs less, even that last over...," he reflected on phases where the game potentially turned.

The deflating loss left India at Pakistan's mercy, hoping its neighbour could beat New Zealand in their final group game to sneak through on Net Run Rate.

Valiant performer: Harmanpreet's efforts proved futile in a must-win match for India on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

"I couldn't have asked for more from my support staff and I couldn't have asked for more from the players.

"They gave the best in those camps and the preparation for this World Cup was thorough. We came into this World Cup really upbeat. It is a little disappointing to lose the two games in the league stage," he added.

Praise for skipper

Muzumdar tipped his hat to captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was in the middle of a rejig to the batting order. Her back-to-back half centuries were the backbone of India's last two games against Sri Lanka and Australia.

"Harmanpreet has been going through a lot of pain. She got hit on her head right at the start of the tournament. Just before the New Zealand game when we were practising, then again in the next training session. But she's fine.

"She's a workhorse and goes about doing her business. It's been special working with this lot, as I said, for the last 10 months, and I look forward to it going forward."

Shocking omissions mark second day of HIL auction

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A few shocking rejections and some tough bidding wars for youngsters was the template on day two of the Hockey India League (HIL) auction for the men even as the women's competition was forced to be cut to a four-team event, at least for the first year, on Monday.

While Belgian midfielder Victor Wegnez was the most expensive buy on the day, going for ₹40 lakh to JSW-owned Soorma Hockey Club, compatriot Arthur van Doren went for ₹32 lakh and Dutchman Thierry Brinkman for ₹38 lakh.

But the overseas players who went unsold, including some big names, outnumbered the ones that got lucky. These included Germany's 2023 World Cup-winning captain Mats Grambusch and experienced English forward Sam Ward besides a host of Australians, including veteran Eddie Ockenden and Jack Welch.

There were some shocking omissions among senior Indian players too, including the likes of S.V. Sunil and S.K. Uthappa, key members of the Indian team not so long ago.

Wegnez. GETTY IMAGES

The two, however, were later picked up by Team Gonasika during the closed bid after the end of the open auctions. More surprisingly, the likes of Yuvraj Walmiki and Chinglensana Singh – both still active on the domestic circuit as players and selectors – went unsold; so did Ramandeep Singh and Dharamvir Singh.

In contrast, there was hectic bidding for a few youngsters with Moriangthem Rabichandra becoming the highest bid of the lot, going for ₹32 lakh to Kalinga Lancers. The likes of junior World Cup captain Uttam Singh and stars Angad Bir Singh and Rajendra too went for much more than their base price - Uttam, with a starting price of ₹5 lakh, was snapped up by Tamil Nadu for ₹29 lakh while Angad and Rajendra, starting at a modest ₹2 lakh each, went for ₹26 lakh and ₹23 lakh respectively, almost 13 times their base value.

The uncertainty around the women's competition ever since Hockey India managed to name only four teams while announcing the franchises was confirmed as the officials revealed that the first season will feature only four. Hyderabad Toofans, which has a men's team too, and BC Jindal Group will come on board from Season 2.

Top buys (day two):

Indians: Moriangthem Rabichandra (₹32 lakh, Kalinga Lancers); Angad Bir Singh (26, Lancers); Maninder Singh (26, Soorma HC); Mohd. Raheel Mouseen (25, TN Dragons); Rajinder (23, Hyderabad Toofans)

Foreigners: Victor Wegnez (Bel, 40 – Soorma HC); Thierry Brinkman (Ned, 38 – Lancers); Tomas Domene (Arg, 36 – Delhi SG Pipers); Arthur van Doren (Bel, 32 – Lancers); Arthur de Sloover (Bel, 30 – Toofans).

Nikin, Shreyas deny Madhya Pradesh the lead as the contest ends in a draw

The duo's 127-run stand for the fifth wicket ensures Karnataka doesn't concede the first-innings advantage after the visitor declares at 425 for eight

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
INDORE

Nikin Jose's back-to-the-wall 99 (216b, 8x4, 6x4) denied Madhya Pradesh the bragging rights over Karnataka as their 2024-25 Ranji Trophy Elite Group-C opener petered out to a draw at the Holkar Stadium here on Monday.

The host declared overnight on 425 for eight, giving itself a minimum of 98 overs to bowl Karnataka out and secure three points.

For the visitor, gaining the lead was a far-fetched proposition, but it was the ideal opportunity to show the stomach for a fight and set the tone for the season ahead.

Nikin and Shreyas Gopal (60 n.o., 110b, 7x4, 1x6) did exactly that as they rescued Karnataka from a precarious 72 for four with a 127-run partnership. Nikin fell short of a much-deserved century, trapped leg-before on the back-foot by left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya minutes before tea.

But by then, the 24-year-old, who had endured a below-par 2023-24 campaign, had done enough, both for his team and himself. At 206 for five, bad light and a slight drizzle officially ended proceedings and gave the sides a point each.

Nikin, who opened the innings, saw offie Saransh Jain and Kartikeya bamboozle his colleagues, bowling 32 of the 37 overs in the morning session as the brand-new cherry gripped, turned and bounced.

Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey were both caught by the close-in fielders off Kartikeya while Devdutt Padikkal paid the price for playing back to Saransh's delivery that slid and thudded into the pads.

Debutant R. Smaran concentrated hard (17, 51b, 1x4, 1x6), but had his off-stump rearranged by Saransh while trying to guard against the one that would hold its line.

From there on, Nikin and Shreyas buckled down. 'After safely negotiating until lunch, the duo scored briskly, collecting 46 runs from the next 10 overs.

Nikin, after impressing with his cut shots early, slapped Saransh for a four and six down the ground.

The half-century was had by flicking Avesh Khan to the mid-wicket fence.

Shreyas, who was reprieved by Rajat Patidar at backward short-leg when on six, played the ideal foil, nudging, driving and sweeping his way to his 15th First Class fifty.

Nikin moved into the 90s with towering back-to-back maximums off Saransh.

Kartikeya spared his spin partner of further misery, but it came a tad too late.

The scores:

Madhya Pradesh - 1st innings: 425 for eight decl.

Karnataka - 1st innings: Nikin Jose lbw b Kartikeya 99, Mayank Agarwal c Dubey b Kartikeya 0, Devdutt Padikkal lbw b Saransh 16, R. Smaran b Saransh 17, Manish Pandey c Patidar b Kartikeya 9, Shreyas Gopal (not out) 60, Sujay Sateri (not out) 2; Extras (lb-3): 3; Total (for five wkts. in 75 overs): 206.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-28, 3-53, 4-72, 5-199.

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kartikeya 33-13-68-3, Avesh 4-1-10-0, Saransh 31-5-103-2, Shubham 2-0-12-0, Khejroliya 4-0-9-0, Venkatesh 1-0-1-0.

PoM: Shubham Sharma.

Team game: Nikin fell one short of a century but will be happy with the point he gained for Karnataka. N. SUDARSHAN

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 1 (FOURTH & FINAL DAY)

Elite: Group A: At Vadodara: Baroda 290 & 185 bt Mumbai 214 & 177 in 48.2 overs (Siddhesh Lad 59, Bhargav Bhatt 6/55). **Baroda 6, Mumbai 0.**

Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir 519/7 decl. & 38/0 in 10 overs drew with Maharashtra 428 in 130.3 overs (Siddhesh Veer 127, Ruturaj Gaikwad 86, Arshin Kulkarni 87, Ramakrishna Ghosh 47, Auqib Nabi 5/100). **J&K 3, Maharashtra 1.**

Delhi: Services 402 bt Meghalaya 233 & 104 in 57.5 overs. **Services 7, Meghalaya 0.**

Agartala: Tripura vs Odisha match abandoned without a ball bowled. **Tripura 1, Odisha 1.**

Group B: Hyderabad: Gujarat 343 & 201 bt Hyderabad 248 & 170 in 59.1 overs. **Gujarat 6, Hyderabad 0.**

Dharamshala: Himachal Pradesh 663/3 decl. bt Uttarakhand 299 & 267 in 73.5 overs (R. Samarth 112, Yuvraj Chaudhary 88, Divesh Sharma 5/55). **HP 7, Uttarakhand 0.**

Jaipur: Pondicherry 248 & 281 in 76.5 overs (Akash Kargave 54, Anand Bais 45, Aman Khan 55) drew with Rajasthan 291 & 220/7 in 60 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 87. **Rajasthan 3, Pondicherry 1.**

Nagpur: Vidarbha 118 & 366 bt Andhra 167 & 243 in 86.4 overs. **Vidarbha 6, Andhra 0.**

Group C: Indore: MP 425/8 decl. in 140 overs (Shubham Sharma 143 n.o., Harpreet Singh 91, Saransh Jain 51) drew with Karnataka 206/5 in 75 overs (Nikin Jose 99, Shreyas Gopal 60 n.o.). **MP 1, Karnataka 1.**

Lucknow: Bengal 311 & 254/3 decl. in 60.5 overs (Sudip Chatterjee 93, Abhimanyu Easwaran 127 n.o.) drew with Uttar Pradesh 292 & 162/6 in 51 overs (Priyam Garg 105 n.o.). **Bengal 3, UP 1.**

Thiruvananthapuram: Punjab 194 & 142 in 55.1 overs lost to Kerala 179 & 158/2 in 36 overs. **Kerala 6, Punjab 0.**

Group D: Guwahati: Jharkhand 361 & 74/3 in 10.1 overs drew with Assam 180 & 355 in 118.3 overs. **Jharkhand 3, Assam 1.**

Raipur: Chhattisgarh 343 & 179/6 in 60 overs drew with Delhi 357. **Delhi 3, Chhattisgarh 1.**

Coimbatore: Saurashtra 203 & 94 in 40.4 overs (Gurjapneet Singh 6/22) lost to Tamil Nadu 367. **TN 7, Saurashtra 0.**

Plate: Rangpo: Sikkim 191 & 269 bt Mizoram 163 & 160 in 35.3 overs. **Sikkim 6, Mizoram 0.**

LIVE TELECAST

Pakistan vs England: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 10.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs West Indies: 2nd T20I, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 7 p.m.
Women's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

SNAPSHOTS

Shrivalli and Aney with their trophies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shaiza scores a brace

BENGALURU: A brace from R. Shaiza helped Rebels FC defeat MEG 2-1 in the BDFA Super Division league on Monday.

The result: Rebels 2 (R. Shaiza 85, 87) bt MEG 1 (Niyas Nazar 51).

Suraj powers Beagles

Suraj (30 points) powered Beagles BC past GST & Customs in the State A-division men's basketball league here.

The results: Young Orion's SC 86 (Pratyanshu 22, Parth 17, D. Aaron 17, Arjun 16) bt JSC 70 (Sanket 20, Katti 11); Beagles BC 81 (Suraj 30, Achintya 23) bt GST & Customs 59 (Naveen 15); DYES Bangalore 61 (Bhuvan 12) bt Mangalore BC 37 (Aditya 13); Bank of Baroda 64 (Anil Kumar 24) bt IBBC 37 (Adarsh 10).

Shrivalli starts favourite

Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty, runner-up at the recent ITF Mysore Open, starts as the favourite in the SKME ITF Open $15,000 tennis tournament which commences at the KSLTA Tennis Stadium on Tuesday.

In the final round of qualifiers here on Monday, Sreenidhi Balaji scored a hard-fought 5-7, 6-4, 10-4 win over Kashish Bhatia to make her maiden senior main draw.

Double for Aney

MYSURU: Second seed Jessie Aney of USA won the singles title defeating top seed Shrivalli Rashmikka 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(8) and completed a double in the W15 ITF Mysore Open on Sunday.

Team MRF Tyres wins

Team MRF Tyres posted victory in the final round of European Rally Championship at Rally of Silesia, Poland. Andrea Mabellini and Virginia Lenzi driving the Skoda Fabia RS Rally2, won the Rally Silesia-Rajd Slaska.

King, Lewis win it for WI

Openers Brandon King and Evin Lewis guided West Indies to a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first T20I on Sunday.

The scores: Sri Lanka 179/7 in 20 overs (Kamindu Mendis 51, Asalanka 59) lost to West Indies 180/5 in 19.1 overs (King 63, Lewis 50); **PoM:** King.

England beats Finland

England eased to a 3-1 victory over Finland in the Nations League, with Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice scoring.